

# SMOKE SIGNALS

*For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs*

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 30th Year

Single Copy: \$1.25

Return Address:  
Kenneth A. Ebner  
822 Wauona Trail  
Portage, WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #265  
Portage WI 53901

**Vol. 29 No. 10 • 356th Consecutive Monthly Issue • Baraboo, Wisconsin • October 1999**

## FCC sets sights on beefed-up 10-meter enforcement

The FCC's Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says hams can expect more rigorous enforcement on 10 meter issues next year. Over the Labor Day weekend, Hollingsworth told visitors to the Shelby Hamfest in North Carolina that the next area of enforcement would be the encroachment of unlicensed individuals into the 10-meter band and a crackdown on illegal RF amplifiers. His announcement drew loud applause from the Shelby crowd. Hollingsworth elaborated on the comments this week in an interview concerning this and other enforcement issues.

"We're coming on to ten months of rejuvenated amateur enforcement now, and two issues are clear -- two areas we need to really crank up on next year," Hollingsworth said. "One is the incursion into 10 meters by unlicensed operators -- CBers and so forth. The other is sales of illegal equipment on the Internet and at ham-fests."

At Shelby, Hollingsworth told the crowd that he'd spotted more illegal equipment at Shelby than he'd seen last May at the Dayton Hamvention. At the Hamvention, FCC Field Office personnel from Detroit warned several vendors about potential violations involving RF amplifiers.

The Shelby Hamfest, held at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, is best known for its flea market, not for its forums, but Hollingsworth still managed to draw a standing-room-only crowd for his Sunday morning presentation. After addressing the overflow forum audience, Shelby Hamfest organizers hastily scheduled a second forum and rearranged the room to gain more seating. Hollingsworth

was scheduled to appear at the Virginia State Convention in Virginia Beach September 18-19.

Hollingsworth says his recent enforcement initiative aimed at call sign hoarders has met with some success. "I appreciate the people who have come in on their own and either turned in or trimmed down the number of club call signs that they had," he said this week. During a two-week period in late August, Hollingsworth said 43 call signs voluntarily were turned back to the FCC without any prompting.

Hollingsworth says he's received replies from all of the letters the FCC has sent to multiple call sign holders, including members of the Tucker family in La Mirada, California. On June 30, the FCC requested that family patriarch Roy T. Tucker, N6TK, and other licensees in the Tucker family provide justification in writing for the two dozen or so club call signs held by various family members.

"I have about a half a dozen cases in the hopper," Hollingsworth said of the call sign inquiries initiative, but added that he's deferring judgment on whether the message has gotten across to the amateur community. "I would like to think so," he said, "but I won't know until I've seen these responses." His stack includes replies from the Tucker family, who have hired an attorney to handle the FCC inquiry.

Hollingsworth says he's optimistic that an anticipated FCC internal reorganization that will create a new Enforcement Bureau will occur no later than the end of the year but could be as early as October 1 -- the start of the new federal fiscal year. Hollingsworth has assured that the change will have no effect on Amateur Radio enforcement efforts.

--John Kanode, N4MM,  
provided some information for this report  
*The ARRL Letter*

## Ray's back!

Ray Szmanda, KB9JPB, of Antigo, "The Menard's Guy", is back on the tube doing commercials for Menard's after a health scare. Happily, that is all it was, and he is back in fine form.

When you see Ray doing his thing on the tube for Menard's, that's the *real* Ray. He's happy, and he's just being himself.

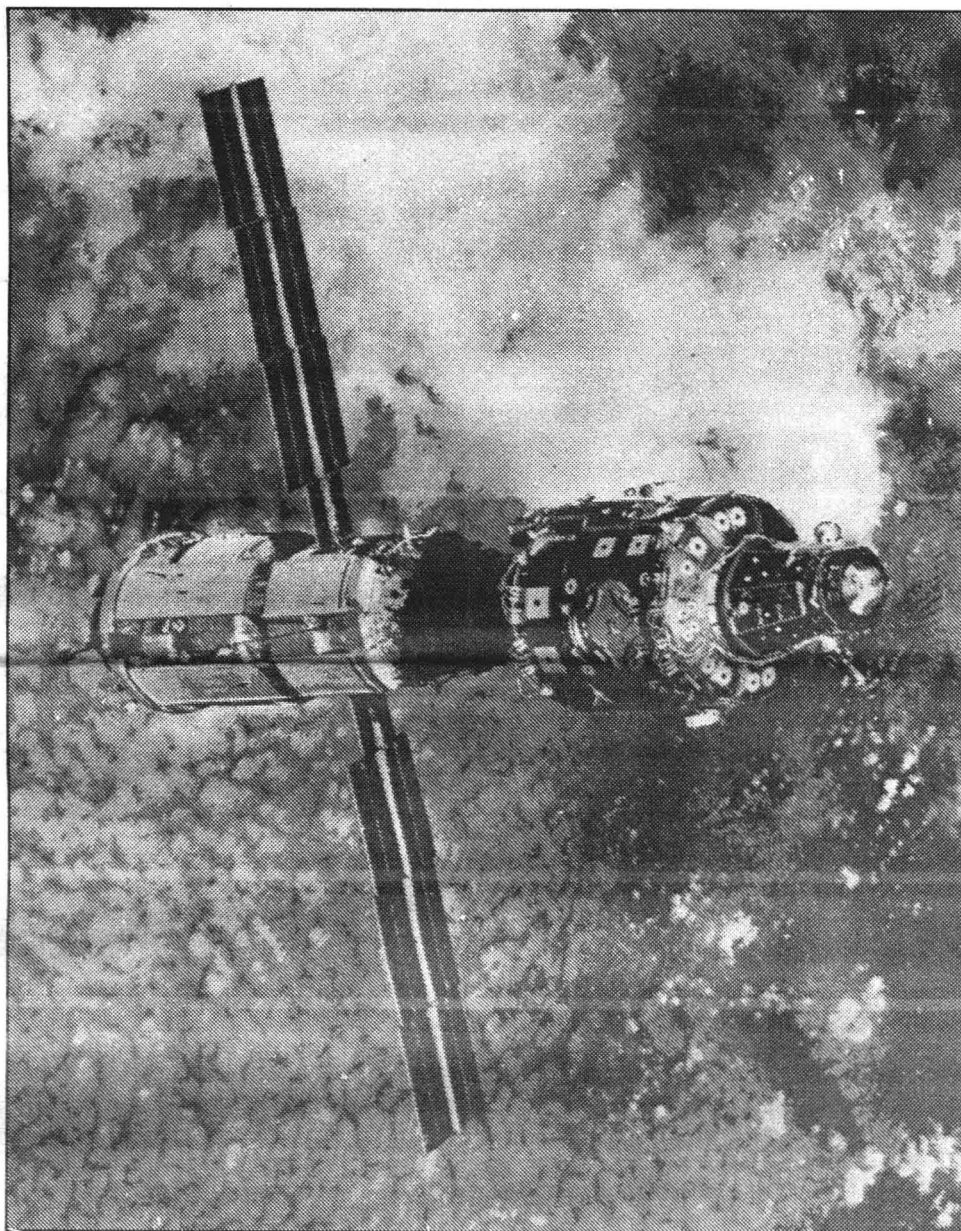
For those interested in "show biz", the commercials are videotaped in a real Menard's store in Eau Claire.

Ray tells BSSS that there are now at least four sites on the Web about the "Menard's Guy". It isn't often that one begins a new career at age 69. He's now 73, and enjoying life to its fullest. To which we say, "bravo!" □



Ray Szmanda, KB9JPB

## Modular Housing under construction



This is the International Space Station as it currently looks. Two modules are in the photo, one Russian, and one from the United States. Two more are set for launch around the end of this year, but they may be delayed. ARISS (Amateur Radio/International Space Station) antenna connectors are on one of these modules. NASA photo

## FLIPPING THE PAGES

What's Happening: Edited by Ken Ebner, K9EN	2
SM W9IXG appoints new Section ARRL officials	4
Here and There	4
Wisconsin to Australia - on SIX METERS? Yes!!	5
BSSS Quiz Answers - and the Winner	5
Email update coming up	5
The Computer Corner No. 71 - Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR	6
The Automatic Packet Reporting System - Tom Weeden, WJ9H	6
ARLOW: New Wisconsin Organization for Disaster Communications Response	7
Jamboree on the Air in October	8
East Coast Flood Communications Continue	8
Glacier Epilogue, Part 2 - Mike Carr	9
Wisconsin Valley Radio Association	10
ManCoRad Radio Club	10
BSSS Web Site Under Development	10
Wisconsin Association of Repeaters	11
Racine Megacycle Club	11
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club	11
Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.	11
Red Cedar Repeater Association	12
Quarter Century Wireless Association/Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162	12
New Products	12
The Wisconsin Packeteer	13, 14
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club	15





# WHAT'S HAPPENING

✕ Swapfests and Other Social Events ✕ Club Meetings  
✕ Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • [kebner@palacenet.net](mailto:kebner@palacenet.net)

## Swapfests and Other Social Events

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1999. Hamfest, Oak Brook Terrace, IL. Contact: CARC PO. Box 410535, Chicago, IL 60641-0535. (773) 545-3622

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1999. HAMFEST Minnesota & Computer Expo. St. Paul, MN. contact: (612) 535-0637. <http://www.hamfestmn.org>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1999. "6.91 Friendly Fest" Amateur Radio and Computer Expo '99. Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, N1 W24848 Northview Rd., Waukesha, WI. Talk in on 146.91 (The Friendly Repeater) Contact: The Milwaukee Repeater Club, Box 2123, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2123. (887) 672-3378. Web page <http://www.execpc.com/~mrc> or e-mail [mrc@execpc.com](mailto:mrc@execpc.com)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1999 Fox Cities ARC Hamfest, Kaukauna, WI. Contact: FCARC, 1912 Russet Ct., Apt. #7, Appleton, WI 54914, (Attn: Chad Pennings (N9PRC), (920) 993-0485.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1999. The Chicago ARC Ham Auction. DeVry Institute of Technology, 3300 N. Campbell Ave., Chicago, IL 60618.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1999. RADIO FEST, Dupage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL. Contact: GMRS of Illinois, 219 N. Willow Dr., E. Plainfield, IL 60544. 815 436-7090

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2000. 28th Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact: WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or call Phil, W9NAW (414) 425-3649.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2000. South Bend Hamfest, South Bend, IN. Contact: Michiana Valley Hamfest Association, 21970 Kern Road, South Bend 46614.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2000. Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Mid Winter Hamfest, Cicero, IL. Contact: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189. [www.w9ccu.org](http://www.w9ccu.org)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2000. Red Cedar Repeater Assn. AUCTION, American Legion Post 53, 634 Water St., Eau Claire, WI. Contact: Steve HJart, KA9OMC, E616 810th Ave., Knapp, WI 54749. (715) 665-2374.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2000. SEWFARS SWAPFEST, Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha, WI. Contact: SEWFARS, PO Box 102, Delafield, WI 53018 (414) 835-7035.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2000. NRSCfest, Lake County Fairgrounds, Graylake, IL. Contact: North Shore Radio Club, NS9RC, Box 1066, Highland Park, IL 60035. [www.ns9rc.org](http://www.ns9rc.org)

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 7-8, 2000. AES SUPERFEST 2000

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2000. MADISON REPEATER

ASSOCIATION SWAPFEST. New location, Stoughton, WI. Contact MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890. 608 245-8890 <http://www.qsl.net/mara>

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2000. Ozaukee Radio Club 22nd Annual Radio and Computer Swapfest, Circle-B Recreation Center, Highways 60 and County 1 (located 20 miles north of Milwaukee, west of Grafton). Contact: Joe Holly, ORC Swapfest Chairman, 1702 Holly Lane, Grafton, WI 53024. (262) 377-2137 or Skip Douglas (262) 284-3271.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2000. The Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Contact: EBREDERIS/SSRC, 262 Easy ST., Somonauk, IL 60552-9605. website [w9mks@arri.net](mailto:w9mks@arri.net). e-mail [erb.n9pib@juno.com](mailto:erb.n9pib@juno.com).

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1999. Eau Claire ARC W9EAU Hamfest. Contact: Jim Staatz, KG9MV, PO Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. (715) 838-9108. e-mail [kg9mg@ecol.net](mailto:kg9mg@ecol.net) web-page <http://www.ecarc.org>

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2000. DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL. Contact: Joseph Gutwein, WA9RJI, 7109 Blackburn Ave., Downers Grove IL 60516. 708) 442-4961

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2000. South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, American Legion Park, Shepard Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI. Contact South Milwaukee ARC, P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. (414) 762-3235.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2000. Circus City Swapfest, Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo, WI. Contact: Steve Schulze, N9UDO, (608) 356-2313/356-4777 or Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, (608) 643 6908/643-6453. web-page <http://www.thelorax.com/~sschulze/hamfest.htm>

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2000. Peoria Superfest 2000, Peoria IL. Contact Don Stedman, KB9LFD, PO box 3508, Peoria IL 61612-3805. e-mail [dls@mtco.com](mailto:dls@mtco.com) or web site [www.mtco.com/~dls](http://www.mtco.com/~dls)

See also the back page and watch for flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other events. As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

## Badger State Smoke Signals

*Amateur Radio  
Education and Information*

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. [kebner@palacenet.net](mailto:kebner@palacenet.net)

EDITOR: Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412½ Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (608) 356-4031. [smokesigs@baraboo.com](mailto:smokesigs@baraboo.com)

TREASURER: Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebner, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

### Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
2 years	(24 issues - save \$1.95)	\$25.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebner, K9EN.

### When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

### Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebner.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebner. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebner.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebner.

### Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

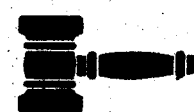
Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.

This newspaper is produced by volunteer radio amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

*Badger State Smoke Signals* is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

### Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.



## CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please save the following listings for your future reference. We hope to have the full listing at least three times a year, and will carry any changes or additions between full listings.

**ARROWHEAD RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.**

(Superior, WI)

The monthly meeting of the ARAC is held on the second Tuesday of the month at the WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st Street, Superior, Wisconsin, at 7:30 p.m. Board meetings are held prior to the regular meeting.

**BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (W9YT - U. W. - MADISON)**

Monthly while school in session - 2nd Tue. - 5:30 p.m. - B-265G, Electrical Engineering Bldg. For more information call (608) 262-1142.

**CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.**

(STEVENS POINT)

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. at the Science Building on UWSP campus. However, up to 6 meetings a month will be held at local amateur's homes and they will be announced each month. The month of October 1999 will be held at W9JN's home in Junction City, WI at 7:00 p.m. A short business meeting and he will then show off his shack to new hams.

**EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

2nd Tuesday of each month 7:30 PM at the Eau Claire, Parks & Recreation Building, 1300 First Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703. For more information contact: Jim Staatz KG9MV 715-838-9108 or kg9mv@ecol.net. Club callsign: W9EAU

**FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

The Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. meets the last Wednesday of the month at the Bank One building in Germantown, WI at Pilgrim and Mequon Roads. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. **!!GUESTS ARE WELCOME!!**

**FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MADISON WI)**

First and third Tues - 7:30 p.m. - Red Cross Bldg., 4860 Sheboygan Ave., room "C" downstairs. It is the next building west of the Hill Farms State Office building. The meetings start promptly at 7:30 p.m.

**FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Third Mon. - 7:00 p.m. - Columbus Club, Appleton, WI.

**GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION**

Fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (414) 363-4439, garyk9gs@solaria.sol.net, K9GS@WA9KEC.WI.USA.NOAM, Packet cluster: NB9C, for meeting location.

**GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB**

Second Thur. 7:30 pm - Media Services area of the J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere.

**GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** Third Mon. - 7:30 p.m. - Green Lake Town Hall, int. of county hwy. K and N.

**KETTLE MORaine RADIO AMATEURS**

Second Fri., 7:30 p.m. at the Waukesha County Technical College, Campus Science Building, Room 102. Talk-in on the N9KS 147.39 repeater.

**LAKESHORE RPTR. ASSN.**

Last Tue., Jan., Apr., Jul., & Oct., 7:30 p.m. Red Cross Bldg., 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

**M & M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

General meeting held second Thursday each month at 7:00 p.m. in cafeteria of BAMC, basement, Tenth Ave., Menominee, MI. All amateurs and guests are welcome. Use the 147.000+ repeater. Our net is Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on the repeater. Our address is P.O. Box 1082, Marinette, WI 54143.

**MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS**

Directors Meeting: First Wed. Held at 6:30 p.m. in the basement, Manitowoc City Hall, 817 Franklin St., Manitowoc.

General meeting: Second Wed. Held at 7:30 p.m. at Associated Manitowoc Bank, corner of 10th and Franklin Streets.

**MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB**

Last Thursday evening, Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa 53222. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. 12 months of the year.

**NORTHWOODS ARC (RHINELANDER WI)**

Third Tue. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. South Park School, Rhinelander, WI. Talk-in on 146.94/.34. All interested visitors to the Northwoods are welcomed.

**OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB**

Second Wed. - 7:30 p.m. - Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center.

**QCWA - WISCONSIN CHAPTER #55**

Contact Erwin Froelich, W9RZW, Treasurer, W3449 Badger Road, Pine River WI 54965. For information about meeting dates or joining QCWA Chapter #55. The Wisconsin Chapter holds Spring and Fall dinner meetings on the first Saturday of June and October.

**QCWA - SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN CHAPTER #162**

Meets third Mon. monthly, 7:30 p.m., Around the Clock Restaurant, 3012 Rapids Drive, Racine.

**RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB**

Second Mon., 7:30 p.m., Gateway, Technical College Conference Center, Room 113, Racine, WI. Information and map at: <http://www.w9udu/gatewaylocation.html>

**RADIO AMATEURS OF WISCONSIN (R.A.W.)**

OSHKOSH, WI R.A.W. is a family oriented club, in which most of its activities revolve around family doings and outings. Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of each month at various locations. If you are a Ham or are interested in Ham radio, contact Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Jeff Oppermann N9OSB, (920) 233-7961. We are always looking for good people to join us.

**RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Saturday coffee at Hardees in North Menomonie, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9:00 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at The Ruppertmill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart shopping center, for the months of January, March, April and September through November. Guests welcome.

**RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

First Tue. - 7:00 p.m. - Onalaska Community Center, Onalaska WI.

**ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB**

Monthly - first Tue. - 7:30 p.m. at Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Net: 146.04/146.64 Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Sat. on 7277 KHz at 10:30 a.m.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Second Tue. - 7:00 p.m. - Sheboygan Red Cross/Boy Scout Bldg., 2032 Erie Ave.

**SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

First Wed. - Legion Post 434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek WI. Auctions in March and October.

**ST. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS HUDSON**

Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the St. Croix County Emergency Government Center on Charmical Road in Hudson, WI. A short business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. followed by the program. Talk in is available on the 145.130 MHz repeater. All are welcome!

**TAYLOR COUNTY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TCAARC), MEDFORD**

Usually the 1st Thur. of the month at 7:00 PM sharp. Usual location: emergency government meeting room/Red Cross office, basement of Sheriff's Annex to Taylor County Courthouse, 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on 147.15 (+600) repeater. Amateurs & guests are welcome. ARES Net, Wed. nights at 8:30 PM on 147.15 (+600) repeater. For info contact: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ.

P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405, phone (715) 223-3996.

**TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Meetings held at members homes. Usually monthly on Sunday afternoon. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, (414) 563-6502 or John Saterlee, (414) 563-6381.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** Second Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Court House. Net on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. on 146.73.

**WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

First Thur. of the month at 7:00 p.m., The Watertown Public Library, 100 S. Water St., Watertown, WI.

**WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

"CQ First Tue." - A social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon at the King's Table in King, WI, on Highway QQ just south of highways 10 and 54 on the west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11:00 - 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted.

"CQ Third Fri." A social gathering and Dutch treat dinner, semi-formal, "OM & XYL" at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check Waupaca 147.390 nets at 8:00 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for that month's meeting place.

**WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB**

Second Tue. - 8:00 p.m. - St. Peters Episcopal Church, 7929 Lincoln Ave. Entrance is at rear of building on alley. A wheelchair ramp and chairlift are available. Board meetings are held the fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

**THE WINNEBAGO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (Formerly the Oshkosh Amateur Radio Club)**

The Winnebago ARC welcomes all Amateurs and interested persons to join us at the Oshkosh Armory on Armory Place, Oshkosh, WI. Meetings are held the third Sunday each month at 1600 hrs. Talk in on 147.24 repeater.

For further information contact KB9IME, Dan Lenz, at (414) 233-7145.

**WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS**

Meetings are held Quarterly, with time and location to be announced. Repeater licensees, trustees, and sponsors are urged to attend W.A.R. meetings. All interested parties are welcome, as well.

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. in room 114 of the Wood County Court House. Talk-in on 146.79 for entry into the building.

**WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION (WAUSAU)**

First Tue. - 7:30 p.m. - Location varies; info on 146.04/64, Wausau.

**YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (BARABOO)**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month. All meetings will be at the Baraboo Civic Center, room 14, unless otherwise noted. Starting time for the monthly club meeting is 7:30 p.m.. The program start time after the meeting is 8:00 p.m., with a one hour limit. See the YTARC column elsewhere in this issue for any special meetings or changes in meetings.

Let Badger State Smoke Signals know your club's meeting dates, and we will let our readers know of your meetings and activities. There may be Amateurs in your area interested in joining your club, or members of other clubs interested in making an interclub visit.

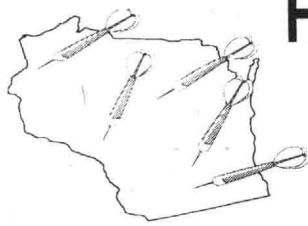


FOR SALE: Hallicrafters SX-99, \$100.00 OBO. Hallicrafters S-38C, \$50.00 OBO. Work ok. Guy (715) 384-4323. [guyboucher@tznnet.com](mailto:guyboucher@tznnet.com)

**THE TEST POINT**

See page 15





## HERE and THERE

### ARISS initial hardware flight delayed

The recent grounding of the US space shuttle fleet will delay launch of the initial station hardware for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. But pre-launch processing of Amateur Radio equipment bound for the ISS remains on schedule. The gear had been scheduled to launch in December aboard STS-101. With the shuttle launch hiatus, it now won't go up at least until late January and probably not until February.

NASA managers said this week that additional delays could result from the effects of Hurricane Floyd.

NASA grounded the shuttles to allow a detailed inspection of electrical wiring on the entire shuttle fleet. The inspections come in the wake of problems during the July launch of the shuttle Columbia, when astronauts and ground controllers struggled with power failures in computers controlling two of the orbiter's three main engines. According to news accounts, the shuttle was one short circuit away from an emergency abort.

An electrical problem later in the same mission initially caused a Space Amateur Radio EXperiment school contact to be rescheduled. A orbiter power outlet subsequently was determined to be faulty.

## New ARRL Wisconsin Section officials



Don Michalski, W9IXG, ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager, made two section-level appointments recently. In the above photo, Jim Lackore, AD9X, accepts his appointment as State Government

So far, inspectors have found dozens of electrical defects on shuttles Endeavour and Discovery. Comprehensive inspections of Columbia -- the oldest orbiter -- and Atlantis -- the one that will carry the initial ham gear to the ISS -- get under way later this month, NASA says. "They have found about 64 problems among the four orbiters," said SAREX Principal Investigator Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL. With a scheduled Leonids meteor shower hiatus and holiday breaks already factored in, STS-101 won't go until January 22 at the very earliest,



Liaison. In the right hand photo, new Assistant Section Manager, Rich Elsner, W9RCW, and Don pose for a media "photo op".

Photos courtesy W9IXG

Bordelon said.

"We delivered our internal amateur hardware back in July, so nothing changes there," he said. The ARISS antenna hardware is due for fall delivery to be stowed aboard STS-101 for flight. "It's about a month or two delay," he said of the STS-101 launch. "I would expect it probably would not be launched until February."

On the other hand, "everything is pretty much on schedule as far as the ham radio hardware is concerned," Bordelon said. "There is no impact to our schedule. We're just moving along."

For more information on ARISS, visit

<http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~ariss/ariss.html>.

The ARRL Letter

### ULS vanity processing inches forward

The FCC's new Universal Licensing System has moved a bit closer to resuming full-scale amateur vanity call sign processing.

Several lucky applicants who had submitted call sign requests in the pre-ULS era benefited in recent days from some "live" testing of the ULS vanity processing system. A few not-so-lucky applicants learned this week, however, that the FCC had to rescind some of those vanity grants it cranked out -- and should not have -- during those "test runs."

Until last week, no vanity call signs had been granted since August 4. The ULS has been accepting vanity applications since it inaugurated the ULS for the Amateur Service August 16, however.

Some 30 vanity call sign applications dating from July were processed September 16. The FCC ran a batch of another 50 or so vanity applications September 21. "We're taking it slow," a ULS spokesperson said.

But while reviewing the vanity applications processed, FCC personnel found some that should not have been granted in the first place, because the applicants made various fatal errors in the application process. The FCC says those call signs will be cancelled and the applications dismissed.

"And there will be plenty more, I'm sure," the spokesperson said, anticipating additional dismissals down the road. The FCC has the option of rescinding any grant within 30 days.

Barring any unforeseen major problems, the FCC anticipates additional "live test" runs before resuming full-scale vanity processing, possibly by month's end. Once that happens, vanity call sign processing will occur every day for eligible applications based on date of receipt. Gone under ULS are weekly processing runs and the dreaded work-in-process -- or WIPs -- stack of applications that were kicked out of the former automated system and designated for manual processing. Under the ULS, applications that would have gotten an additional manual review in the past now will be automatically dismissed and returned to the applicant for correction and refile.

Vanity applications not accompanied by payments within the 10-day deadline will be dismissed automatically. The ULS now permits applicants to make credit card payments on-line. The fee for a vanity call sign application increased to \$14 on September 14.

## AMERITRON True Legal Limit™ Tuner

Easily handles 1500 Watts continuous carrier even on 160 Meters... High-current edge-wound silver plated Roller Inductor... Two 500 pf high capacitance tuning capacitors with 6:1 vernier reduction drives... 3 core choke balun... Six position antenna switch... True peak reading Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter...

Call your dealer for your best price!

AMERITRON ATR-30  
**\$599**  
Suggested Retail

- Handles 1500 Watts carrier
- Super High Current edge-wound silver plated Roller Inductor
- 500 pf tuning capacitors with 6:1 vernier reduction drives
- 3 core choke balun
- 6 position antenna switch
- True peak reading meter

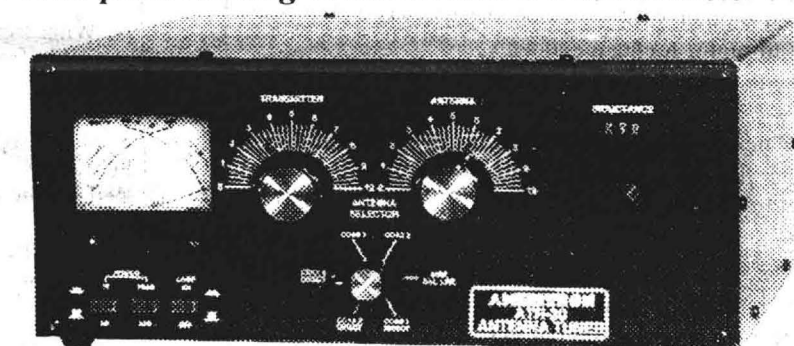
AMERITRON's ATR-30 True Legal Limit™ roller inductor antenna tuner is ham radio's toughest! It'll handle 1500 Watts continuous carrier output on all modes and all HF bands into most antennas -- even on 160 Meters where most antenna tuners fail.

It's perfect for Ameritron's most powerful amplifiers where the ATR-30 just loads.

All band coverage lets you operate 1.8-30 MHz including all MARS and WARC bands.

**Super High Current Roller Inductor**

You'll see Ameritron's new super-high current air core roller inductor. It's edge wound from a thick solid copper strip and silver plated. This produces a large surface area and a massive conductor. It can carry huge circulating RF currents and withstand



tremendous heat that'll melt or burn ordinary roller inductors.

A gear driven turns counter and crank knob gives you precise inductance control.

**Two 500 pf Tuning Capacitors**

Two 500 pf -- the highest of any antenna tuner -- variable transmitting capacitors give you no-arc wide range impedance matching for true high power performance.

**6:1 vernier reduction drives** makes capacitor tuning smooth and easy.

**Super Balun, 6 position Antenna Switch**

Super heavy duty three core choke balun lets you match virtually any balanced feed-line antenna without core saturation.

A 6 position antenna switch lets you select your desired operating antenna.

**Read true Peak Power**  
Ameritron's active electronic true peak reading meter accurately reads forward and reflected power and SWR simultaneously on a lighted Cross-Needle meter.

**Roomy Cabinet maintains High-Q**

Roomy extra-strong .080 inch thick aluminum cabinet gives highest efficiency and lowest loss. 13 1/2" W x 5 1/2" H x 17 1/2" D inches.

**AMERITRON ATR-15 Antenna Tuner**

ATR-15, \$399. Handles 1500 Watts RF output.

Slightly less on 160 Meters. Bandswitched T-Network.

peak reading SWR/Wattmeter, covers 1.8-30 MHz, 6 pos. antenna switch, balun. 13 1/2" W x 5 1/2" H x 17 1/2" D inches. Perfect for AL-80B/AL572.

## Ameritron has the best selection of TrueLegalLimit™ HF Amplifiers

AMERITRON's legal limit amplifiers use Peter Dahl super heavy duty Hypersil power transformer capable of 2500 Watts!

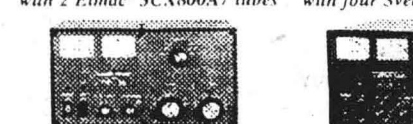
**Ameritron's most powerful Amp**  
with Eimac® 8877 ceramic tube



**\$2795**  
Suggested Retail  
TrueLegalLimit™  
Ameritron's  
most powerful  
amplifier uses

the herculean Eimac® 8877 ceramic tube. It's so powerful that 65 Watts drive gives you the full output power -- and it's just loading because the power supply is capable of 2500 Watts PEP. All HF bands, all modes. 77 pounds, 18 1/2" D x 17 W x 10 H in.

**1.5 plus kW SSB HF Amp**  
with 2 Eimac® 3CX800A7 tubes



**AL-800H, \$2295** suggested retail. Two Eimac® 3CX800A7 tubes produces 1500 plus Watts SSB PEP with 55 Watts drive. 52 lbs., 8 1/2" H x 16 1/2" D x 14 1/2" W in. **AL-800, \$1595** suggested retail. single 3CX800A7, 1250 Watts out with 70 Watts drive.

**Ameritron's toughest Amp**  
with Eimac® 3CX1200A7 tube



**\$2295**  
Suggested Retail  
TrueLegalLimit™  
Get ham  
radio's toughest  
tube with AL-

1200. The Eimac® 3CX1200A7 has a 50 Watt control grid dissipation and the lowest history of field replacement of any modern transmitting tube that we use. 90 Watts in gives you full power out. All HF bands, all modes. 76 pounds, 18 1/2" D x 17 W x 10 H in.

**NearLegalLimit™ Amp**  
with four Svetlana® 572B tubes



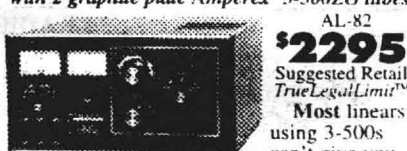
**\$1395** suggested retail. New class of Near Legal Limit™ amplifier gives you 1300 Watts SSB PEP power output (70 Watts drive) for 65% of price of full legal limit amps! Instant 3-second warm-up. 40 lbs., 8 1/2" H x 15 1/2" D x 14 1/2" W inches.

**1 kW Desktop HF Amp**  
with Amperex® 3-500ZG tube



**AL-80B, \$1295** suggested retail. Gives you full kilowatt SSB PEP output (85 Watts in) from a whisper quiet compact desk-top linear. 8 1/2" x 14 1/2" x 15 1/2" in. Plugs into 120 VAC outlet. Graphite plate Amperex® 3-500ZG tube. Nearly 70% efficiency. Weighs 48 lbs.

**Ameritron's classic Amp**  
with 2 graphite plate Amperex® 3-500ZG tubes



**\$2295**  
Suggested Retail  
TrueLegalLimit™  
Most linears  
using 3-500s  
can't give you  
1500 Watts because their lightweight power supplies can't use these tubes to their full potential. AL-82 is ham radio's only super 3-500 amp! 100 Watts in gives you full power out. All HF bands, all modes. Hefty 76 pounds, 18 1/2" D x 17 W x 10 H inches.

**Precision SWR/Wattmeter**  
AWM-30, \$149 suggested retail.

Active circuit gives true peak/average readings on lighted Cross-Needle meter. 3000/300 Watt ranges. Remote sensor.

Call your dealer for your best price!

Free Catalog: 800-713-3550

**AMERITRON®**

... the world's high power leader!

116 Willow Road, Starkville, MS 39759  
TECH (601) 323-8211 • FAX (601) 323-6551  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CST Monday - Friday

For power amplifier components call (601) 323-8211  
<http://www.ameritron.com>

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. © 1999 Ameritron



In the wake of comments and criticisms about the difficulty of having to configure a dial-up connection with a particular browser (Netscape version 4.5 or higher, and version 4.61 preferred) to file an application, the ULS Task Force says it's planning to convert to electronic filing via the Internet. But a spokesperson says that is not likely to happen for another six to nine months. In the meantime, some have opted to file a paper Form 605 instead.

*The ARRL Letter*

## Spectrum bill tops 100 cosponsors

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, reports that more than 100 Members of Congress have agreed to be cosponsors for HR-783, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. Four more signed aboard following the August recess, raising the total number of cosponsors to 106.

*The ARRL Letter*

## eHam.net is hacked

The new eHam.net Amateur Radio site (<http://www.eham.net>) reports that it was the victim of hackers the weekend of September 10-12. eHam.net's Bill Fisher, W4AN, says hackers apparently from Southeast Asia were using the eHam.net server in an effort to break into government agency sites in the US. As a result, eHam.net began receiving phone calls from the US Defense Department, NASA, and other government agencies on September 10. "A quick look at our server revealed that we had indeed been hacked and that someone was running a process on our machine that was trying to gain information about computers in a lot of different government and university computer systems," Fisher said. He said eHam.net removed the program and attempted to close loopholes, but September 11, the intruders deleted all of the files on the eHam.net system. eHam.net says it has beefed up security, and expects no further problems.

*-eHam.net in  
The ARRL Letter*

## FCC dismisses four applications as exam audit continues

The FCC has dismissed four Amateur Radio applications resulting from an examination session in Yonkers, New York, last spring, but its investigation continues.

FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote the four applicants two months ago seeking answers to specific questions about the May 2, 1999, session conducted by Metro 70 cm Network Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiners under the ARRL-VEC. All four were warned that failure to provide the requested information would lead to dismissal of their applications. On September 9, Hollingsworth wrote the same four applicants to dismiss their pending applications.

Dismissed were an Amateur Extra upgrade application from Keith Murphy, KB2YOI, of Spring Valley, New York; a Tech Plus upgrade application from Keith Jones, KC2EDT, of Brooklyn, New York; an Advanced upgrade application from Winston A. Tulloch, KC2ALN, of Paterson, New Jersey; and an application for a Technician license from Claudies Anderson of Detroit, Michigan.

The FCC says Murphy, Jones, and Tulloch failed to respond to the initial inquiry, while Anderson told the FCC that the test papers the FCC questioned him about were not the ones he'd turned in at the exam session.

All four applicants were advised September 9 that "the issues surrounding the examination session" will have to be resolved before the FCC entertains another Amateur Radio application from any of them.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL that the next step in the investigation would be to contact the Volunteer Examiners at the session.

In its initial inquiries to Murphy, Tulloch, and Anderson, the FCC questioned the appearance of blue markings next to most answers and asked which marks the applicants had placed on the answer sheets and if any marks were already on the sheet when it was handed out. The FCC similarly queried Jones about his Morse code answer sheet, asking if it was the only one he'd filled out on May 2 and if any of the answers were modified after he'd turned in the sheet; the others who took code tests

were asked if they had written down any of their copy, and, if so, what they did with those notes.

Anderson also was asked if he was actually present at the test session and if he'd had access to an answer template before or during the test session. All four applicants also were asked to name the Volunteer Examiners who handed out their paperwork and to whom they gave their completed answer sheets, as well as any discussions they might have had with the examiners.

*The ARRL Letter*

## "Down Under" worked up here - on six meters

Six meters, dubbed the "magic band" by its fans, showed some of that magic on September 22.

An intense auroral band opening produced very extraordinary propagation on both six and two meters in the northern latitudes that day. Note that when we have aurora in the northern latitudes, the same occurs at the other end of our planet. Here, it is Aurora Borealis. There, Aurora Australis.

Dick Lust, K9APW, worked a large number of stations during the opening created by the aurora on both six and two meters, and both on SSB. But a big surprise was lurking.

Dick was not at his rig but had it turned on downstairs in his shack. He heard quite a bit of chatter. When he finally went downstairs, he found he was hearing several VK4 stations in Australia, engaged in a round table, and unaware they were being heard here.

Dick called one of the, saying "This is K9APW, Wisconsin." He says adding the state helps, because of possible confusion with the "K" in Australian calls. He was more than slightly shocked at hearing VK4 stations at S9-plus. The very same was true at the Australian end. He worked VK4PU with ease, then called another VK4. The opening was like going from day to night; it ended suddenly.

Other stations in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois did work Australia on six meters as well.

Dick says in his nearly 40 years as a ham he has heard Australia on six only once before, and very weakly. This opening, while it lasted, was a true "pipeline".

The interesting part of all this is that this was not a Sporadic E opening, nor would it likely have been auroral, either. The time of day is interesting as well, because the F2 layer should not have been capable of that propagation, either; Dick worked VK4PU at 0057Z.

This is the 80th country Dick has worked on six meters, and it is his 542nd grid square.

An interesting note: Prior to the opening to this area of the Midwest, the Australians had apparently experienced a very strong band opening on six meters to Japan.

It is safe to say the propagation scholars will examine this one carefully. As Dick said, "It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

He is almost certainly right. But, six meters IS called the "magic band" for a reason. This is a fine example.

## E-mail list update next month

At semi-random times, *Badger State Smoke Signals* prints a list of e-mail addresses and URLs of individual Wisconsin hams and clubs. We have tentatively decided that we will definitely do it again, probably next month. But, seriously folks:

It will be in the November issue. So, to get you address listed or corrected for the next run, please send the pertinent information to:

<wa9pov@execpc.com>

Thanks!

## And the winner is.....

We had promised another of our nerdy little quizzes in the August issue. We didn't run it. So, we did run it in our September issue.

The answers submitted all came by e-mail. The number increased quite a bit from the prior quiz, but we would like to have seen more. I suppose the problem is that we are not giving away a 2000 Cadillac, fully equipped.

Here are the questions and answers:

1. In what city will the Madison Swapfest be held in 2000?  
**Stoughton.** (This one nailed several of you!)
2. What is the "Rotor Doctor's" call sign?  
**N8DJB.**
3. What is the first name of the proprietor of Radio Recyclers?  
**Neil.**
4. In what Wisconsin City is Tower Electronics?  
**Green Bay.**
5. Does Amateur Electronic Supply have a toll-free number to call for ordering stuff?  
**Yes.**
6. What brand name factory closeouts are sometimes available from Rich's Surplus in Stanley, Wisconsin?  
**Alinco.**
7. Which repeater association sponsors an auction in February?  
**Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.**
8. Does the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club sponsor a swapfest?  
**Yes.**
9. What are the initials of the American Radio Relay League?  
**ARRL.**
10. In or near what city is Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers, located?  
**Green Bay!**

Our winner, and soon-to-be-recipient, of 20 Badger Bucks and a great NASA photo is:

**Carrie Cash, KB9UZZ**

Congrats, Carrie! Thank you and thanks to all who entered. Carrie has to wait out the next one. We'll try to cook up another brain-teaser for the December issue.

## BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS

### Subscription Form Regular Individual Subscription Rates

**1 Year: \$13.95 • 2 Years: \$25.95 (save \$1.95)**

**PLEASE PRINT!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Send this form, with your check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901.

Please do NOT send cash!

OCTOBER 1999



## The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive  
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654  
(414) 284-9346  
WB9RQR @ N9PBY.EN63BI.WI.USA.NA  
SKAPLAN @ MCW.EDU



### No. 71: Now Is the Time

Your computer may be completely Y2K compliant, but if you don't take the steps outlined here, it may still fail on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Don Lund, K0DL, sent me a query in July concerning an email message he received from his son's father-in-law (lets call him FL). FL did some experimenting and discovered that both his computers would have failed on the "big day", and he provided a quick and easy fix for the problem. I have taken his fix a bit further, to kill another bird with the same stone. Specifically, it will set your computer to use the new Universal Date Convention, accepted worldwide. Actually, most of the rest of the world has been using it for at least a decade. It is only new here in the USA. Had this convention been used by early programmers, there never would have been a Y2K problem.

Let me back up. Your computer can be in one of three possible status conditions with respect to Y2K compliance (I am simplifying things a bit here, for the sake of clarity).

**1. Fully Y2K compliant.** At a second after midnight on 1999-12-31 (notice the new date convention), your computer will happily roll over to 2000-01-01 and will continue ticking away and correctly keeping both the date and time (at least it will be close, though we both know computer clocks are not very accurate). If you were to boot it up at 3:00 a.m. (just before going to bed after your New Year's Eve celebration?), it would report 2000-01-01 03:00. Fine business. It will also handle future leap years correctly.

**2. Manually compliant** (a great many machines will exhibit this condition). At a second after midnight on 1999-12-31, it will reset itself to some unpredictable date, very possibly 1980-01-01, but maybe some other weird date. If you enter Windows in this state, you are sure to get error messages. Maybe your screen will say something like "You dumb human, I can't work under these conditions!" (Not really, but you will get error messages). However, you can fix it. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, boot with a floppy (an old MS-DOS 6.22 boot disk will work fine) and type DATE. Enter the correct date. Then type TIME. Enter the correct time. That is it - reboot without the floppy and your machine will happily keep the correct time (approximately) thereafter. If you turn the machine off after that and reboot on January 5<sup>th</sup>, it will correctly report the date as 2000-01-05.

**3. Non-compliant.** It will roll over to some weird date a second after midnight. If you reset the clock using the method outlined above, it will keep time so long as it is on. If you turn it off, the next time you reboot it will again exhibit the weird date. Can't be fixed, unless you replace the BIOS chips, a step that may cost a considerable percentage of the price of a new machine. Either set the year to 1990 and keep track mentally, or dump the machine and get a new one.

Those are the general possibilities, and they exist because of the compliance, manual compliance or non-compliance of the BIOS (Basic Input Output System) chip that was programmed for your specific brand and model of computer. This chip (or two) interprets how time is recorded by the little "wrist watch" (Real Time Clock) that is ticking inside every personal computer. The battery found inside every PC powers the RTC, among other things. If the battery dies, the machine will loose the date, time and other even more important information, such as what kind and size hard drive is in the computer's belly.

OK, let us assume you have a fully compliant or manually compliant computer. The issues described so far deal largely with hardware (BIOS chips, battery, RTC) and firmware (the program that is more or less permanently burned into the BIOS chips). But there is another issue - software. It seems that Windows comes set with a date convention that uses only two digits for the year. Therefore, one minute after midnight the date will change from 99 to 00. Aaargh! Gremlins everywhere! But the simple fix is to not accept what Microsoft shipped as the default date convention, but rather to change it to a four-digit date. And, while you are at it, change to the worldwide date convention of yyyy-mm-dd. Come on, guys and gals. We gotta do it. See #62 in this series, January 1999, DATES CAN DRIVE YOU NUTS for some background on why we gotta do it. Here is how, described for Win95 but it should be nearly identical for Win98. **DO IT NOW. DO NOT WAIT TIL THE END OF THE YEAR!**

From Windows, double click My Computer, then Control Panel, and then Regional Settings. Next click the Date tab. Look at the "Short Date Sample". Does it show a two-digit year? As pointed out by FL, of course it does, because that is what Microsoft decided should be the default setting and the software was shipped to you with the two digit setting. The two-digit date you are looking at is the date Windows feeds to applications; it will roll over to 00.

Click on the button across from Short Date Style and select the style that shows yyyy-mm-dd. Be sure that four Ys are showing. Click Apply and OK at the screen bottom. You are done, and Windows should roll over properly on January 1<sup>st</sup>. And now your machine is current with the world on date conventions. Thanks to Don Lund and FL for bringing this additional Y2K problem to light and sharing it with us. Happy computing!

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, Ozaukee Radio Club, 101 E. Clay Street, Saukville, Wisconsin 53080-1903 (Skip Douglas, KA9DDN, Editor). □

## The Automatic Packet Reporting System

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

### PART 8 - WinAPRS

This month we will take a look at another version of APRS which runs under Windows 95/98. Up to this point, our discussion has been with the original version for DOS, which can run on a machine as simple as an 8088, as long as the computer has a color monitor. The advantage of the DOS version is that just about any old PC gathering dust can be pressed into service on this interesting mode.

WinAPRS is actually a rewritten version of MacAPRS for the Macintosh. (Mac users: most of this discussion also applies to you, but I write for the Windows users since there are many more of them!) All APRS flavors are compatible on the air with each other for the most part, and they also allow you to see APRS activity on the internet.

The advantage of WinAPRS is that it can run simultaneously with other programs, such as your Dial-Up Networking routine. To have a look at WinAPRS, you will need to get two files. For the program itself, go to either:

<ftp://msproul.rutgers.edu/pub/hamradio/APRS/WinAPRS>  
<http://www.tapr.org/tapr/html/sigf.html>

...and look for WAPRS23x.ZIP.

To download detailed maps of every Wisconsin county, go to either:

<ftp://aprs.rutgers.edu/pub/hamradio/APRS/TIGER%20Maps/>  
<ftp://aprs.rutgers.edu/pub/hamradio/APRS/maps>

...and look for the file WISCONSN.ZIP (note one "I" is missing in the file name). It's a large 21.8 MB file. You don't need this file to run APRS, but the detail in the maps makes it worth the effort.

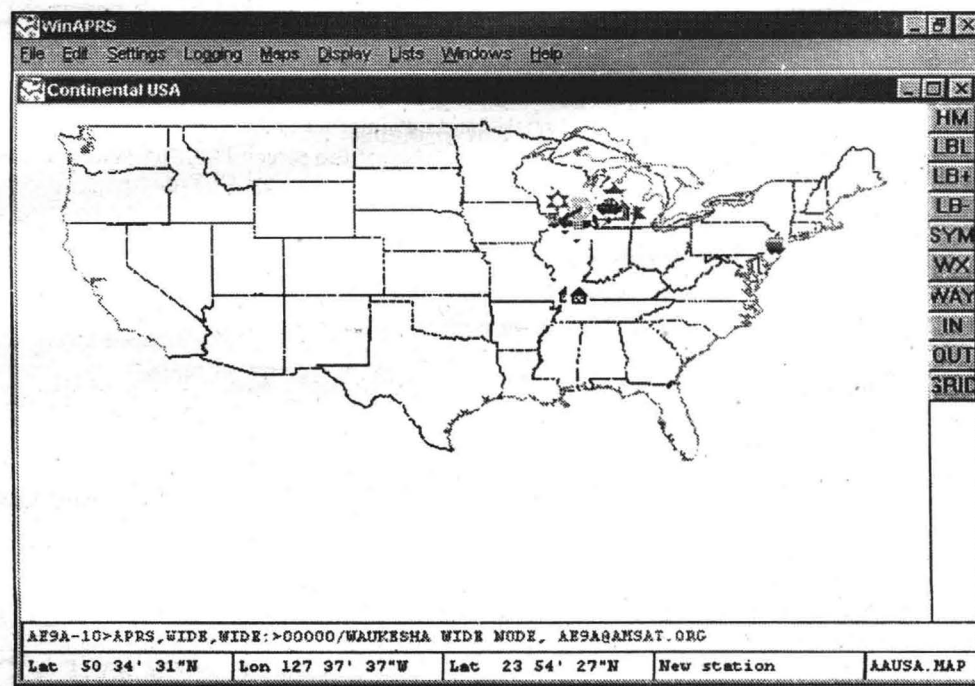
After you get the files, create an empty directory, and un-zip the WinAPRS file. Next go to the newly created MAPS directory and un-zip the WISCONSN.ZIP file. Finally, find the file APRSSERV.TXT, open it, and edit in a line at the end of the file as follows:

N9UUR.imc.mu.edu <tab> 14579 <tab> Milwaukee APRServe/N9UUR

Remember to use the TAB key instead of spaces between fields. This entry will allow you to tap into the Milwaukee APRS internet gateway if you have internet access.

Now you're ready to run WinAPRS. Start the program, click "OK" once, then "OK" again if you're running a TNC, or "Cancel" if you're going to connect to the internet. (Disclaimer: I have never run WinAPRS on the air, only the internet. You're on your own on 2 meters!) You will now see a US map.

If you're dialed into the internet, select "Settings" and uncheck "Enable Sound", then "Settings" again and "TCP/IP Connections", then "Milwaukee APRServe/N9UUR". You should now begin to see icons plotting around the Milwaukee area.



Continued on page 7

## Ham radio may have TV role

Amateur Radio may play a role in NBC's new show *Third Watch*, which premiered September 23 (the show's regular time slot will be on Sundays at 8 PM Eastern).

Several months ago, ARRL Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, was contacted by a production company staff member who wanted information on ham radio. At the time, she said that one of the main *Third Watch* characters would also be an Amateur Radio operator.

No word on how large a role ham radio might have.

The ARRL Letter

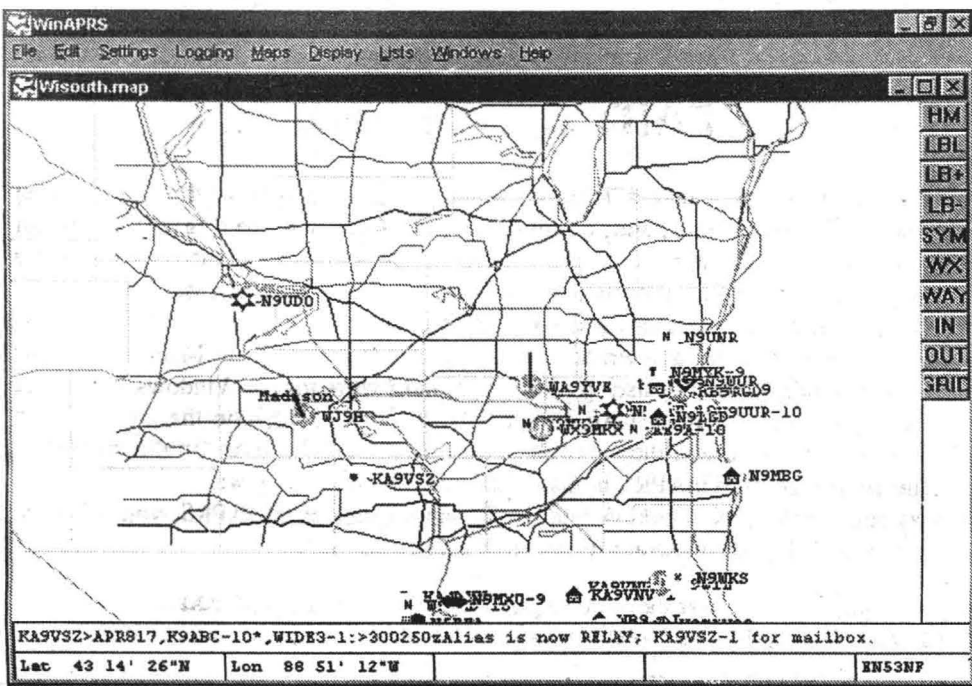
Have you or your club taken part in any "regular" or "unusual" ham radio activities? Maybe our readers would like to read about it! Send info to the editor, addresses on page 2. Thanks!



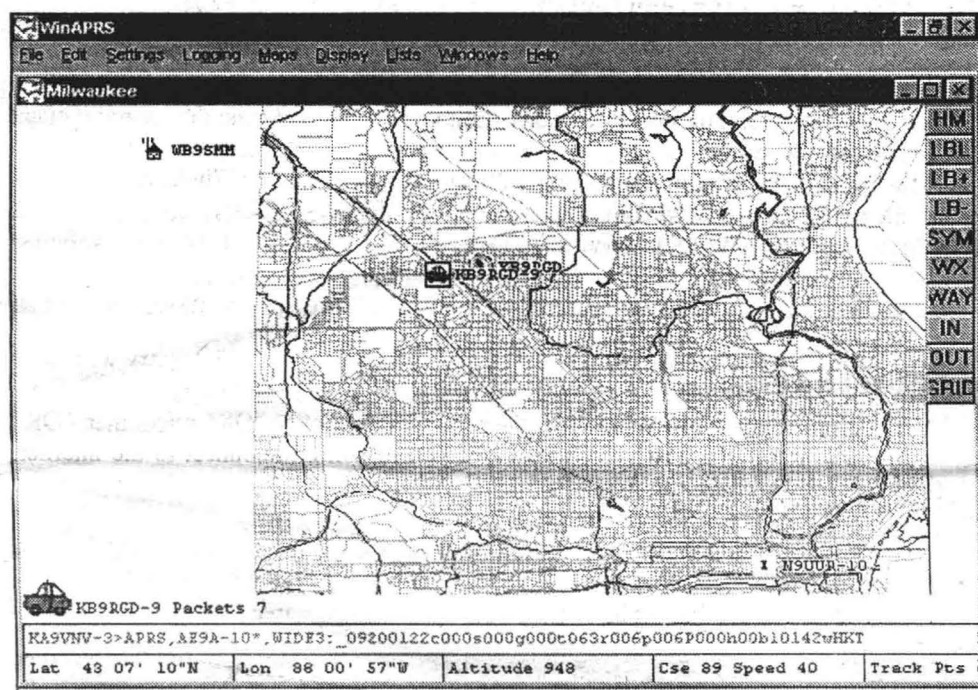
## The Automatic Packet Reporting System

Continued from page 6

To zoom in on an area, go to "Maps" and select a new map. I made a copy of my WISOUTH.MAP file from DosAPRS and moved it to the WinAPRS maps directory to show southern Wisconsin.



Now let's choose the map for Milwaukee County. You can use the mouse and Page Down to zoom in as shown here.



In this example, you can see four Milwaukee-area stations that are on the air on 2 meters and have made it through the N9UUR I-gate (internet gateway). I single-clicked on KB9RGD-9's car icon, and in the lower-left corner of the screen I can see that I have received 7 packets from that station. If you double-click a station icon, you will get more detailed information.

Since APRS is great at reporting weather statistics in near-real time, WinAPRS allows you to see a page listing of just weather stations. Click on "Lists" then "Weather Lists" to get a screen like this.

Type	Call	Day/Time	Temp	rRain	pRain	HumidPres	Wind	Gust	Dir	D
Car	KB9RGD	19/20:27	58	0.00	0.00	97 1091	6	6	283	<
Car	N9WIL	19/20:27	65	0.01	0.01	87 1012	0	0	310	<
Car	N9IDH-4	19/20:25	60	0.00	0.00	0 1013	6	8	327	<
Star	KA9UNU-3	19/20:24	63	0.06	0.06	0 1014	0	0	0	<
Car	K9SB	19/20:19	69	0.00	0.00	71 1013	3	12	248	<
Car	KC8LCP-13	19/20:17	68	0.00	0.00	0 0	0	0	358	<
Car	KA9YUE	19/20:17	54	0.05	0.15	93 1013	12	15	358	<
Car	KA9UNU	19/20:17	63	0.15	0.16	0 1017	0	1	315	<
Car	WJ9H	19/20:17	59	0.00	0.00	0 0	8	12	337	<
Car	KC8LCP-14	19/20:17	71	0.00	0.00	0 1000	9	14	281	<
Car	KB8PQZ	19/20:17	79	0.00	0.00	29 982	0	8	51	<
Car	KB8UEE	19/20:17	76	0.00	0.00	0 1000	0	0	180	<
Car	KC8LCP-10	19/20:17	68	0.96	0.00	0 0	11	11	229	<
Car	KC8LCP-11	19/20:17	67	0.00	0.00	0 0	16	16	225	<
Car	KC8LCP-12	19/20:17	69	0.00	0.00	0 0	11	11	225	<

Clicking the title bars on these list pages sorts the data from all the stations. I clicked on the bar labeled "Day/Time" to sort the data from newest to oldest. You could also click the "rRain" column to see who had the most rain in the last hour or "pRain" for a sort of the last 24 hours' rainfall. Several different lists are available, such as a list of all stations received, or just mobiles running GPS trackers.

Check the help files for more detail on how to set up your specific brand of TNC for

## NEW EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

### Ham Radio Assistance in Community Disasters

By Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

The Amateur Radio League of Wisconsin (ARLOW) is a non-profit entity striving to provide a facility in Southeast Wisconsin that will enhance our community's emergency communication needs. For over fifty years, Hams have almost always had to rely on the generosity of other organizations or individuals for their meeting and storage locations. The same holds true for Licensing Classes and Repeater sites. We function with the blessings of others, often operating in a facility controlled by individuals without Amateur Radio interests.

ARLOW will offer group meeting rooms, permanent secure storage, provide training, offer ongoing Amateur Licensing Classes, coordinate with and for local law enforcement agencies and the general public in the area of emergency communication. The site will offer permanent Repeater locations for all bands. ARLOW will provide this without cost to its users.

ARLOW is a unique community service resource. In today's world of smaller budgets and "doing more with less", communities find themselves struggling to keep up. One of the priorities that often get pushed aside is disaster preparedness. While preparing for a disaster, many communities fail to understand the implications of proper communications. The best-laid plans and equipment are only one part of the puzzle. Without proper communications there is no coordination, no flow of information and most importantly, there is less relief for victims. This is where ARLOW can help. By providing a modern communications center, portable systems and on-site technical experts, we can bridge any communication need without cost to the communities we serve.

In today's world of cellular phones, InterNet networks and digital satellite communications, why would any community need this type of facility? The simplest answer is all of these modern services are run for profit, they utilize an infrastructure that is vulnerable in a disaster while being limited in capacity. ARLOW is non-profit; utilizing Amateur Radio operators who are already experienced in electronic communications. These operators are spread out and independent of one another, which makes them less vulnerable in a disaster. With virtually any type or mode of communications available, Amateur Radio provides an almost unlimited capacity of service, where and when needed.

The current 911-system and cellular phone sites are fine and serve a community's normal needs. However, when a disaster strikes, such as a tornado, the seven or eight 911 operators and limited or remaining cell sites, are unable to answer the hundreds of calls looking for immediate help and information. All that the callers, will hear, unfortunately, is a busy signal.

The ARLOW facility will be a state-of-the-art communications and educational center. Space will also be available to other community service and not-for-profit organizations. The facility will offer large meeting and classrooms, ongoing Amateur Radio Licensing and emergency communication classes. ARLOW would be ideal for groups such as the Boy and Girl Scouts and Big Brother/Sister. Adults can work on an equal footing with their younger associates. Both can gain a hobby while preparing to assist their community's needs, when and if called upon, and the younger students may find an interest that leads to a future career.

Please visit our web site at [www.w9udu.org](http://www.w9udu.org) by accessing the ARLOW link.

If you, or an organization you belong to is interested in working with, or would like to utilize the services offered by ARLOW, give me a call at (414) 639-7327, or email me at [wa9jmo@wi.net](mailto:wa9jmo@wi.net). I'll be happy to give you more details.

use on air, or how to send one-line messages to other stations (on the air or on the internet).

So who is on the air on APRS in Wisconsin anyway? I have a short list of stations heard on 2 meters at my location in Madison. There are many more, I'm sure, but they were not heard here. Recognize anyone?

N9MYK-7 WD9BBE N9IDH-4 N9IDH KA9VSZ N9MYK-9 N9UUR-10 KB9RGD N9LGD W9CWD N9UDO WX9MKX N9EAL-10 AE9A-10 N9UUR K9ABC-10 N9UNR N9UDO-15 N9MBG N9MKX-10 KB9RGD-9 N9PQJ

I hope you'll join the list soon. See you on 144.39!

More APRS information at: [www.execpc.com/~tcweedn](http://www.execpc.com/~tcweedn)



# 42nd Jamboree-on-the-Air

SPONSORED BY THE WORLD ORGANIZATION  
OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

October 16-17, 1999

## What is Jamboree-on-the-Air?

The Jamboree-on-the Air, or JOTA, is an annual scouting and Amateur Radio event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Thousands of Amateur Radio stations around the world participate. If the conditions are right, it is common to contact a hundred scouting countries during the weekend.

In the United States, Cub Scout dens or Boy Scout patrols visit a local amateur's ham shack during the JOTA. Many districts and councils hold events that coincide with the JOTA, where amateurs set up stations giving Scouts and leaders a chance to exchange greetings with Scouts from other areas.

The exchanges typically include information such as name, location (QTH), Scout rank, hobbies, and age.

Some exchanges lead to long-lasting pen pal friendships and the exchange of photos, badges, pins, and patches.

The usual communications method calls for speaking into a microphone. However, the following specialized communications methods are also used:

- Slow Scan TV, or SSTV
- Amateur TV, or ATV
- Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio, or OSCAR
- Packet radio, or modem communications without a phone
- Radio Teletype, or RTTY
- Earth-moon-Earth, or EME, contacts

There will be many stations operating, including the following:

- K2BSA/5 at Camp Wisdom in Dallas, Texas
- Additional K2BSA stations assigned to other areas, such as K2BSA/0, K2BSA/1, etc.
- HB9S, the World Scout Bureau headquarters in Switzerland
- GB2GP at Gilwell Park, England

Listen for other special call signs from many countries.

## Who

The JOTA welcomes participation by Scouting and Amateur Radio enthusiasts of all ages:

- Cub Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Venturers
- Girl Scouts
- Scouters
- Former Scouts and Scouters
- Amateur Radio operators
- Anyone interested in doing a Good Turn for Scouting and Amateur Radio.

## When

The JOTA begins on Saturday, October 16, 1999, at 0001 hours local time, and ends on Sunday, October 17, at 2359 hours local time.

The JOTA program always falls on the third full weekend in October.

## JOTA Scout Frequencies

Band	SSB (phone)	CW (Morse code)
80 meters	3.740* and 3.940 MHz	3.590 MHz
40 meters	7.090* and 7.290 MHz	7.030 MHz
20 meters	14.290 MHz	14.070 MHz
17 meters	18.140 MHz	18.080 MHz
15 meters	21.360 MHz	21.140 MHz
12 meters	24.960 MHz	24.910 MHz
10 meters	28.390 MHz	28.190 MHz

## Antenna Service Plus

Serving all of Southern Wisconsin!

(608)938-4999 Office

(608)325-3842 Fax

Experienced & Insured

New and used

Systems available!

For professional Service and Installs of CATV, Satellite, TV VHF/UHF, Telephone, Home Theater, Amateur and Business 2 Way Systems

# ARES/RACES continue flood response

Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service groups in North Carolina and Virginia continue efforts to respond to flooding resulting from Hurricane Floyd. Some parts of the region received additional rain this week as a result of Hurricane Gert.

North Carolina suffered its worst flooding disaster ever due to Hurricane Floyd. "As far as I can tell, we're still on the uphill slope," North Carolina Section Manager Reed Whitten, AB4W, said this week (September 24). "There's no reason to believe things will get better soon." Whitten estimated that upwards of 300 amateurs statewide are actively involved in the Hurricane Floyd response. Whitten said hams are staffing EOCs and shelters, handling traffic, and acting as net control stations, as well as supporting outside relief efforts by the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and others.

"Amateur Radio Emergency Service/RACES is providing backup communications between the eight Southern Baptist Convention mobile kitchens and the American Red Cross to support their joint feeding efforts," Whitten said Thursday. He said the Red Cross also enlisted Amateur Radio technical assistance in locating a site for and installing a Red Cross UHF repeater system. "This system, using Red Cross equipment, should be operational early next week," Whitten said.

The American Red Cross currently is housing some 6000 people in 65 shelters in North Carolina, and hams also are providing communication for evacuees. The Salvation Army is operating mobile feeding units and one shelter.

Relief operators continue to be scheduled to travel into hard-hit Edgecombe County. Amateur Radio operators also are providing communication for the State Emergency Operation Center in Raleigh and in Pitt, Edgecombe, Craven, Hertford and other counties. Amateurs from North and South Carolina have traveled to the affected area to assist.

Most of the problems result from flooding of the Tar, Neuse, Cape Fear, and Lumber rivers in eastern North Carolina. The town of Tarboro was completely cut off by the flooding of the Tar River, and relief workers have had to be transported in and out via helicopter.

While most amateur traffic is being handled on VHF and UHF, the statewide Tar Heel Emergency Net on HF is operating from 8 AM until midnight to support state and county operations. Whitten has requested that the FCC rescind the voluntary communications emergency for 3923 and 7232 kHz in North Carolina.

To the north, Virginia Section Manager Lynn Gahagan, AF4CD, reports the City of Franklin -- near the North Carolina border -- has experienced its worst flooding ever with the downtown area and businesses under more than 12 feet of water. Nearly all traffic going in and out of Franklin -- including police and fire communication -- is being handled by ham radio. He said hams were using VHF and repeaters for the most part, and he predicted telephone service could be out for another couple of weeks or more.

ARES/RACES officials in North Carolina and Virginia have requested that prospective volunteers first sign up with ARES officials. In North Carolina, contact SM Reed Whitten, AB4W, at ab4w@arrrl.org. In Virginia, contact SM Lynn Gahagan, AF4CD, at 757-545-1290, or the Virginia Department of Emergency Services at vaecoc@w4za.ampr.org. In no case should volunteers in either state attempt to travel to stricken areas without being specifically requested to do so.

Elsewhere, the Southern Florida ARES Net activated on HF as Tropical Storm Harvey brushed Southern Florida. Assistant SEC and Net Manager Jim Goldsberry, KD4GR, reports more than 400 people took advantage of Red Cross shelters in Pinellas County overnight. Other shelters were open in Lee and Polk counties. The EOC was staffed in Highlands County.

The Hurricane Watch Net activated for Hurricane Gert. Net Control Station Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, said Hurricane Gert passed to the east of Bermuda leaving only minor damage. The Net closed after it became clear that Tropical Storm Harvey had ceased to be a threat.

The ARRL Letter

\* Not authorized to transmit in the United States (Region 2); however, you may listen.

## How

Scouts and leaders should follow any of the following tips for help in preparing for participation in the JOTA program:

- Contact a local Amateur Radio operator.
- Contact a local Amateur Radio club.
- Put a notice in the local newspaper.
- Run an article in the local council newsletter; almost every local council has a Scouter involved in Amateur Radio.
- Contact the American Radio Relay League's Educational Activities Department toll-free at (800) 326-3942; or visit the ARRL Web site:

<<http://www.arrl.org/ead/jota.html>>.

## Radio Amateurs should:

- Invite Scouts and Scout units to their shack. Radio amateurs who do not know any units should contact the nearest BSA local council service center for the names of Scout unit

BSSS advertisers:

THE BEST IN BUSINESS!



leaders in the area. Local councils can be found in the phone book under "Boy Scouts of America".

- Volunteer to set up a station at a district or council camporee, Scout show, or other event. Contact the nearest BSA local council service center for more information.

- Call "CQ Jamboree," or respond to such calls.

## What is or is not required

- No reports in the forms of logs are necessary. (This is not a contest.)
- Make the exchange of information simple, related to Scouting and Amateur Radio.
- Brief reports are requested. The report should include:
  - ✓ Unit number and local council name and number.
  - ✓ Amateur call used.
  - ✓ Calls heard and worked.
  - ✓ Number of participants.
  - ✓ Interesting incidents and exchanges, etc.
  - ✓ Photos with captions (small group, Scout at mike).

Send reports and photos to the JOTA coordinator at BSA national office address below, no later than November 30, 1999. These reports will be used to prepare a United States report that is sent to the World Scout Bureau.

## Certificate Cards

Postcard-size certificates are free and available to anyone participating in any way.

# Glacier Epilogue

By Mike Carr  
(Son of Sherman Carr, W9NGT)

*Between January and June of this year, we published a journal, written by Sherm Carr, W9NGT. Sherm told of a journey about the US Coast Guard Cutter "Glacier", an icebreaker to which his son, Mike, was posted. Mike sent us some of his own journal. We complete it here.*

At 1301, March 22nd, we went through the intersection of Equator, and Date Line - just like we knew what the hell we were doing. With the navigational systems aboard, one had to really work hard to get even remotely lost. When I started using it a few years ago, I was amazed at its accuracy. I still am.

While wandering the Antarctic, we encountered countless chart errors, many of which were from old aerographer's charts from the late forties and early fifties. There were also many occasions when we were literally in uncharted waters. We went into many bays or fjords with no charted soundings, or areas where a previous icebreaker had ventured -- a line of soundings in, and another on the way out. Navigation could be difficult. Shore lines on the chart and the silhouette on radar made no sense, islands that didn't exist and peninsulas that were really islands. Pine Island Bay in the Bellingshausen Sea was a prime example. Glacier was the first ship, ever, to transit through the area and reach the glacier at the head of Pine Island Bay. At the end of each deployment, we would send new data to the Defense Mapping Agency to update Antarctic charts.

Dad was there to witness the crossing, and watched all of numbers shift from south to north, and east to west in seconds on the navigation system. He was duly impressed, but it was also the highly dependable system that we heavily relied upon when nothing else worked. It also did exactly as it was supposed to do when it came time for Glacier to make the crossing. Hemispheres and seasons changed simultaneously.

Everyone in the States wanted to talk to KC4USG, and handle traffic for the ship. The phone patches were getting cranked out. The crew was happy, parents and loved ones were happy, and so was dad.

During our quiet times in the evening, we would talk at great length, and write in our journals. It was a very special time for both of us. We both looked forward to it every night. It was a rare situation, where father and son live so close together, and for so many days. We were always close, but our time together was a great renewal of that closeness between father and son.

March 24th: Dad seemed to be a bit frustrated today; don't know why I sensed it, but he is. We discussed the problem in the ham shack. It seems that the radio room isn't being very cooperative. It's handling routine traffic that can wait during the ham shack's prime time, even though the plan was discussed and agreed upon with our Communications Officer. He had been thwarted by propagation, and now he was being thwarted by our own personnel. He never mentioned the situation in his journal. As a passenger, he didn't know how he could resolve the problem. However, I could. I talked with the Operations Officer. True to his word, Keith said that he would handle the matter, and came to "our" stateroom to assure dad that things were OK again. We both knew what the problem was. Our head radioman never wanted orders to the ship, never wanted to be there, and for what ever reason, decided to disrupt the ham shack's efforts. Keith explained to him that whatever his feelings, or whatever his motives, he was ordered to cooperate, it was time for him to abide by the three magic words, "Aye, aye, sir."

January 30th, having been arbitrary and capricious while going in the other direction, why not take full advantage of the humor stirred by the date line one more time. The birthdays previously ignored were now celebrated complete with cake, cookout, and mid-week holiday routine for the crew, also known as rope yarn Sunday. Phone patches were getting cranked out by the score, and dad thoroughly enjoyed trying to explain our bit of whimsy to the gang on the Maritime Net. It wasn't easy! I assured him later in the day that we were caught up with days and time zone changes, tomorrow was March 26th.

March 27th, I went on watch at 2000 and found that there were all sorts of lights to look at. We were southwest of Barber's Point and the entire south shore of Oahu was lit up. One of the watchstanders remarked about us getting lucky and finding landfall again. As usual, we were on track, and on time. During my watch, we slipped past Honolulu, heading for Molokai and Lanai. Once we pass between them, Maui is the next stop.

March 28th, Dad "helped" me moor the ship in Kahalui. There's many family members and friends to greet us when we moored, including mom and my Aunt Pat. Having returned to the U.S., it was necessary to clear customs. They took forever, they checked each and every customs declaration form of the entire crew. At long last, they left, and quarters was held. Our XO passed some information to the crew, and finished

They may be ordered beforehand for presentation during the JOTA, or they may be awarded at Scouting or Amateur Radio club meetings later. Send requests to Jamboree-on-the-Air Certificate Cards, S221, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079, with a self-addressed and stamped envelope large enough to hold all the cards ordered. All orders must be received by December 31 of the year for which the certificates are ordered.

## POSTAGE GUIDELINES

Number of Certificates	Postage	Envelope Size
1-8	\$ .33	#10
9-16	.55	#10
17-24	.77	6" x 9"
25-32	.99	6" x 9"

Please add 22 cents postage for each additional 8 certificates.

Requests cannot be filled without proper postage. Any request that is received without postage will be returned.

## Pocket Patches

Temporary insignia to wear on the right side of the Scout uniform or on jackets/vests are available again for \$3.00 each, postpaid.

Insignia will be available in limited quantity only and will not be ordered when supplies are exhausted. ORDER EARLY. Allow four weeks for delivery on all orders. Pay by check or money order. We cannot accept cash or credit cards for payment. □

by asking if there were any questions. Someone asked, "What's the currency exchange rate here?" The guy was barraged with moans, groans, boos, and cat calls. For Glacier's crew, it was the first time back on U.S. soil since November 10th of last year, and over five months since we left Portland, Oregon.

Our reunion in Maui was terrific. I also learned of an "agreement" between parents. Dad could go gallivanting off to Australia, if mom got to go to Hawaii and meet us. I wonder who held the most bargaining chips in that hand? We played tourist, had fun dinners, and just had a great time together. The night before we were to sail, I noticed that just about everyone was back early, it was time to hit the road and get back to the mainland.

April 1st, weather played a prominent role in our departure. Kahalui harbor is man-made and offers marginal protection. Before we pulled away from the pier it was obvious that ma nature had an April Fools joke all prepared for us. Everyone could see the big waves crashing over the breakwall. We hadn't even left the harbor, and we could already feel the effects of the seas. Father gave me a look. "I think we're in for quite a ride." "Yup, sure are," was my response. We stuck our nose out in ocean waters again; cleared the sea buoy, and got back on our 046T course to Astoria. Nasty weather, big seas, and naps go well together. The best place to be when its rough is securely wedged in your bunk. The ship was pretty quiet for the next day and a half.

Dad had joined me for my 1600-2000 watch. Conversation was rather subdued, everyone was watching the bow bury itself in the big waves. Glacier didn't pitch much, it sort of bulled its way through the seas, and all that water had to go somewhere. Consequently, with each wave, there was a heck of a show until all of the spray hit the bridge windows. After my watch, I joined him in "our" stateroom. He was wedged in and busily writing. I did my own journal entry while we talked, then it was lights out and bunk time.

April 2nd, the ham shack is back in operation. I stopped by to see how the place faired during our ride the previous day. He and Pete were cleaning up the mess from the waste basket and the chest. Given the opportunity, an errant waste basket will deposit its contents over every square inch of space available. My desk had also popped open and unloaded a few items. That can be expected once in a while. We have had big steel desks break loose from their deck mounts in rougher weather. Now, *that's* a mess!

My father wrote about having dinner with the Captain and his father in his journal. as did I, however, my version was slightly longer. Despite interruptions to catch a salt shaker, water glass, or fork, our dinner was excellent and so was the conversation. While we were having coffee, dad was bragging about how well how he was doing with the roll of the ship when his chair just tipped over. He unceremoniously went to the deck in his own slow motion "roll". He went down with coffee cup in hand and disappeared. I couldn't see him. All of a sudden, I saw an outstretched arm, with coffee cup in hand, remaining perfectly level. What a trouper! Once I knew that he wasn't hurt, I lost it and started to laugh, the sight of his hand slowly rising above the table struck me as being incredibly funny. He called me a few more names other than "the rat". To this day, we still laugh about it.

April 6th, the ham shack shut down, KC4USG went off the air. I think that he wished that this trip could have gone on longer, because it saddened him to close up shop, and just become a passenger again. However, he accomplished what he set out to do and did so in style. Hundreds of phone patches were made, he had provided a service when the crew needed it the most. He wrote about the pathos he witnessed, but I saw the crew's smiles after chats with their loved ones. And all because of a ham radio phone patch.

April 9th, the band, the canon, the crowd, and the fireboats that welcomed Glacier back to Portland, Oregon were gone. The ship had an eerie quiet about it. The deployment was a tremendous success, however, the return to homeport felt almost anti-climactic. Dad's arrival in Sydney still blazes in my memory. However, I have no recollection of him leaving Portland after the trip was over. A good friend of mine once told me that sometimes the destination is not nearly as important as the travel itself. How true.

I discovered early on, that I had given him the two finest gifts that I could possibly give. The trip of a life time, and a composition book to write about it. For the two of us, there was tons of super quality time, chances to talk, opportunities to enjoy experiences, and now great memories for both of us. We got to share an adventure together. We shared something that so few fathers and sons ever get to do, much less, ever dream about. What a great trip.

My thanks to *Badger State Smoke Signals* for publishing his journal and sharing his/our adventures with your readers.

73, everyone. □



# PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

## Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

**Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output**

### Meeting Minutes September 7, 1999

Meeting was called to order by KB9-DED, members present: N9NMH, N9TTA, KB9FRB, KB9DZG, N9SDL, N9QQ, KB9-MCZ, N9SDI, N9LIA, N9MEA, N9PHC, W9WW, N9WPH, N9NRC, KB9RXXA, KB9VBR, KC9NW, and KB9OPQ. Visiting was Bryon Huffman.

### Old Business

By default the WVRA will not be sponsoring a BSA Venturer group of teenagers who are interested in ham radio. A committee of five was needed to be able to sponsor a group. At this point not enough stepped forward.

Information was passed regarding that we are approved for the same antenna and feed line as what we have now. If it is intended to be anything other than that it must be approved due to the wind study, etc. Matt, N9NMH, and Mark, N9MEA, will gather the technical data sheets for the commercial version of the dual bander antenna and determine if two feed lines or one will be required to feed the antenna. They will then talk to Joe Kamenick, providing him with the technical information to see what his understanding is regarding this. If there is a cost associated with an additional study, that cost should be determined and included in the grant proposal.

Matt, N9NMH, gathered some information on the price of things. The new commercial antenna will run \$4750, 7/8" feed line \$4.35 per foot, the connectors about \$60 a piece. There will be some additional mounting accessories that will be determined and available for the grant proposal.

Greg, KB9MCZ, gathered some information on preparing a grant application. He and N9SDI and N9SDL will meet and gather the appropriate documents to prepare the application.

A motion by KB9MCZ and 2nd by N9LIA to proceed to prepare the grant application for a new commercial grade dual band antenna, the feed line and required hardware as well as necessary improvements to the repeater system to take us into the next millennium. The grant is then to be submitted by Greg for review and assistance in tweaking prior to presenting to the WVRA board for approval. Upon board approval the grant will be submitted to the Wausau Foundation for consideration. The motion carried by members present.

The WVRA has assembled a list of volunteers for the Y2K support of Wausau Hospital which will be onsite and available for emergency communications in the event that the GTE phone system goes down.

01-01-2000. Included will be possibly strategic placement of amateurs in the area to provide communication support for doctors on call that evening. Don, W9WW, will be chair for this event.

### New Business

Mark, N9MEA, mentioned that Dan Bolander will be resigning as the frequency coordinator as was mentioned in the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters.

Mark, N9MEA, will chair the Halloween Patrol upon confirmation by Don, W9WW, that the Wausau PD wishes us to perform this community service. Don will discuss with Chief of Police.

Jack, N9LIA, shared that NTC will be holding their auction on Saturday, 10/02/99, and also indicated that there is a very good chance that there will be electronics available. Watch the local paper for details of the time etc.

Jack, N9LIA, has been contacted by the Samoset Council in regard to the WVRA participating in the BSA Spring Camporee to be held in Rhinelander 5/19/00 - 5/21/00. The intent is to present Amateur Radio demonstrations to groups of 30 to 40 during selected times during the weekend. This will be discussed at the next board meeting and a recommendation brought back to the club for consideration.

We are trying to determine if there are enough auction items to hold a club auction this year. Contact one of the board members if you have items, or email <w9sm@arrl.net>. If we come up with enough we will have the auction later in the fall/winter.

The WVRA now has a web page. It can be accessed at <WWW.dwave.net/~wvra> or at <wvra.cjb.net>.

The WVRA also has an email address of <w9sm@arrl.net>.

Check out the web page, as it lists upcoming events, meeting minutes, packet radio information, ham radio dealer links, manufacturer links, etc.

The program for the evening was on contesting and was an excellent presentation by Don, W9WW. Thanks, Don, for an interesting and informative presentation.

The program for next month will be on emergency power and hooking up a generator to your residential electrical system, as well as a possible update on the Rib Mountain tower project.

Adjournment: N9LIA and N9NMH.

Respectfully submitted:  
Kim Kunze,  
N9SDL

## Mancorad Radio Club

Mary Langer, KB9GOY,  
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI  
54221-0204



**2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output**

### MANCORAD MINUTES September 8, 1999

The September meeting of ManCoRad was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by President Fred, W6BSF.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in *Badger State Smoke Signals* with a motion by Red, N9GHE and a second by Dick, N9QFY.

The treasurer's report was read by Roger, W9NPX, and approved with a motion by Red, N9GHE and a second by Ken, K9HAG.

Fred, W6BSF, read two thank yous to the club for the floral donations made to recent funerals. One was from Ken Tate, WB9OBX, on the passing of his wife and the other was from the family of John Glaeser, WB9ESM.

Roger, W9NPX, gave a detailed report of our Hamfest held last May. Plans are underway for next year's hamfest with Dick, N9QFY taking the reins. If anyone has any ideas for next year's hamfest please contact Dick. The date has been set as May 13, 2000.

ManCoRad Club is having a family picnic on October 9 at Lincoln Park Cabin 1. It will be a potluck with the club furnishing the brats and burgers. After lunch at 1:00 there will again be a T-hunt. Those of us that participated last year had a great time and there will again be prizes. Mark your calendar for Oct. 9 from 12:00 noon to 6:00. The zoo is nearby for the children and also a playground. Bring your own drinks.

Fred, W6BSF, got a letter from WPS on Y2K. They would like a ham to be at the plant in Two Rivers on New Year's Eve to help with any problems that may arise. Fred is doing more checking on this. Also, Nancy Crowley has asked the club if anyone would be interested in going door to door on December 31- Jan. 1, if there is a Y2K problem. Contact Fred.

The Kewaunee Nuclear Plant Drill is October 5. Please let Fred, W6BSF, know if you are able to help out.

Fred, W6BSF, was asked to take ARES.

Fred, W6BSF, was asked to take ARES. He said he would temporarily as he has RACES. If someone is interested in taking RACES-ARES, please contact Fred.

Club dues are coming due in October. It is still the same as other years - \$30.00 for family and \$20.00 for single.

Due to the article in the *Herald Times Reporter* on the club trying to find a new clubhouse when a new city hall is built, we have had several possibilities come up. Fred, W6BSF, and Red, N9GHE, will give a report next month.

One of our honorary members, Chuck, W9BZU, has donated a lot of ham gear, etc. to the ManCoRad club. The donation committee, headed by Steve, N9PBL, has made a video tape of such, and it was viewed at the meeting for all members to see. A motion was made by Red, N9GHE, and seconded by Ron, WS9X, to have a silent auction for club members of some of the equipment. The club will keep various items and it will be decided later what to do with the rest.

The monthly membership drawing was held and Al Seidl, KA9VUF, was not present to win. The next drawing will be \$10.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. with a motion by Dan, N9FVZ, and a second by Denise, N4WGK.

Submitted for approval:  
Mary Langer, KB9GOY  
Secretary

### MEETING ATTENDANCE

W6BSF - Fred	N9XEZ - Bill
W9NPX - Roger	NZ9Z - John
KB9GOY - Mary	N9GHE - Red
K9HAG - Ken	KB9GRC - Tom
KB9INK - Bob	N4WGK - Denise
KB9NTL - Don	N9UGI - Dave
K9LWI - Larry	WS9X - Ron
N9PBL - Steve	K9WIX - Clancy
KA9ZTF - Carl	N9IQZ - Janice
WD9ERN - Bill	N9QFY - Dick

## BSSS Web site under development

A very preliminary Web site for *Badger State Smoke Signals* is under construction. It is residing currently on a personal web page. As its construction proceeds, information may be needed for certain areas. Currently, the list of clubs in Wisconsin and their meeting schedules has been completed. However, it almost certainly needs updates. Please point to

<<http://members.baraboo.com/BSSS/meetings.htm>>. See if your club's listing needs any changes. If so, use the click spot at the top of that page and send the changes along.

A domain has been secured but is not ready yet. It won't be "up" until we have more set up and ready for genuine public display. And we'll let you know how things are progressing.

## WM7D.net opens ULS query site

The WM7D.net call sign server has opened a ULS query site that includes licensee information updated daily (except weekends) from the FCC. The site is operational but in the testing stages.

The new URL is [http://www.wm7d.net/fcc\\_uls/ulsquery.html](http://www.wm7d.net/fcc_uls/ulsquery.html).

Mark Downing, WM7D in *The ARRL Letter*



## Wisconsin Association of Repeater

Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, Secretary  
1523 E. Moonbeam Tr. • Appleton, WI 54915



War Minutes  
September 11, 1999

Newsletter Report

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gary Bargholz, at 1:04 p.m. It was held at The Chalet Motel in Mequon, WI.

Introduction of members and guests:

KF9CS	Mark Heimmermann
N9JUJ	Terry Ludwig
WB9TYT	Dan Bolander
WA9POV	Dave Knaus
W9MQD	Mauri Heppe, WCARC
K9IZV	Warren Schall
N9WSZ	Milt Klingsporn
KF9ZU	Bette Kratz
N9TD	Art Kratz
WB0AFB	David Felland
WA9JOB	Nels Harvey
N9OSK	Shawn Mielke
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz
N9UUR	Gary
WD9HOD	Ray Vollrath
KA9FUR	Dave Karr

### Secretary's Report

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Art Kratz, N9TD, made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Terry Ludwig, N9JUJ, and approved by the members present.

WAR received a copy of the Illinois newsletter. It was distributed to the members present.

### Treasurer's Report

Balance on 6/11/1999: \$3155.10

Balance on 9/11/1999: \$2949.57

There were no outstanding expenses at the time of the report. The balance this year is below last year's, but that is attributed to the unusual expenses WAR had in 1999. Moving forward things should return to normal.

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by David Felland, WB0AFB, and approved by the members present.

The W9RIC repeater has been switched from the SNP frequency to its new pair.

Ray requests that all articles for the December newsletter be submitted to him one week earlier November 5th. Ray Vollrath, WD9HOD, took pictures of folks who submit articles for the newsletter. Next month's newsletter will have a different look. Ray said newsletter articles are accepted from any WAR members and not just those of the officers.

### Coordinator's Report

Dan had a list repeaters which have not updated since 1997. When he gets settled back in Florida he will begin de-coordination on these systems.

Dan said that some trustees have been having problems with the HAAT calculations. If you are having problems contact Dan. He can provide assistance or direction on where to obtain the help you need.

So far the short spacing with Illinois is working. There was a small problem that was solved using lower ERP and PL. No new systems have been coordinated with the new short spacing.

### Chairmen's Report

Dan Bolander, WB9TYT, is moving to Florida as a residence and not a spectator. Dan is resigning as WAR's frequency coordinator, but will continue until a replacement is found. Everyone gave Dan applause for the fine effort he has done on the job. Two amateurs have submitted their names for the position. They are Dave Karr, KA9FUR, and Leroy Dick, N9RSU. The WAR officers will make a decision in the next couple of weeks. If anyone else is interested or wants to nominate someone contact an officer.

All WAR coordination records and software were transferred from Dan to the chairman.

### Old Business

WAR is waiting for a signed copy of the WI-IL agreement on close space.

The next meeting will be December, 11, 1999 in the Fox Cities area.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Mark Heimmermann (KF9CS)  
Wisconsin Association of Repeater,

## The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI  
Dennis Doonan, W9DAD, Secretary  
c/o RMC • P.O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 54301-0003  
e-mail: w9udu@wi.net

Web: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>  
Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC • ARRL Affiliated

Providing communications for American Red Cross and ARES



Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 1999

The July 12, 1999 regular membership meeting of the Racine Megacycle Club Inc. was opened at 7:30 PM by Vice President Bob, WE9EH. President Rees K9UUT, Secretary Dennis, W9DAD, Treasurer Greg, KB9RMA, and Activities Director Kevin, KB9LLV, were present. There was a total of 18 members present.

Treasurer KB9RMA read the treasurer's report. K9ZL made a motion to accept the report as read, KA9OIL seconded, and the members approved.

Bob, W9EH, summarized the Field Day scores and described some of the activities. Further comments were received from Dan, KA9OIL, Al, N9ZWJ, John AA9XD, and

Cheryl WS9P.

Activities Director KB9LLV reminded the club that the first annual RMC club picnic and softball game will be held August 15, 3 p.m., at Stuart McBride Park, which is just behind the Mt. Pleasant Town Hall. This will replace the normal August meeting. The club will provide brats, burgers, buns, and corn. Members are asked to please bring a dish to pass around.

KB9LLV made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. KA9OIL seconded and the membership voted in favor.

Don't forget our Ham Radio and Electronics Auction October 1.

Submitted by Dennis, W9DAD, secretary,  
Racine Megacycle Club

## Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Art Evans, KA9KLZ, Secretary  
213 N. Jefferson • Cuba City WI 53807-1558

## WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1100	0600	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2200	1700	WB9WHQ
WNN	Yes	3723	2300	1800	KB9OCZ
WSSN	Yes	3645	2330	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0300	2200	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61 (Mondays CDT)	0030 (Menomonee Area)	1930	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0245 (Green Bay Area)	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0200	2100	
RACES	No	3993.5	1400 (LSB Sunday)	0900	WA9OAY

August 1999

### Wisconsin Section STM Report

As we celebrate the 130th anniversary of H. P. Maxim's birth and the 50th anniversary of ARRL's National Traffic System - we can take pride in knowing that we are carrying on a time-honored tradition by providing accurate and reliable communications for those in need. To keep the system operating, we practice - sometimes daily, sometimes several times each day, sometimes as often as we can -- just to sharpen our skills and test the system.

Some would question the value of the messages we relay. It seems to them that the information we transfer isn't important.

When we pass someone and say, "Hello," "Good Morning," or "Hot enough for you?" - we aren't really exchanging information - but it is important to say those greetings to test the system, to recognize the other person, to be polite. Before any significant, sizeable meeting -- such as a national political convention, a large congregation's church service, or a sold-out rock concert -- some sound technician walks up to a microphone and says something like, "Testing. One, two, three. . ." Those words certainly don't carry much information of importance, but it is extremely important that he say them. If he doesn't, how will they know if the system is functioning properly? So it is with our nets. We run them to exercise the system - including our equipment, our knowledge, and our skills. Is the content of

the messages of high importance? Sometimes, maybe not. Is it important that we use them for practice? Always.

The WNA Picnic will be held at Plover on October 3. The festivities will include a regular meeting of the WNA, door prizes, etc. Listen to the nets for more details.

73,  
Denny, K9LGU/STM

### NET SUMMARY

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1298	1715	2328	31	W9IHW for W9RCW
BEN	496	57	802	31	KE9VU
WSBN	481	70	765	30	WB9WHQ
WNN			NO REPORT		KB9OCZ
WSSN	93	13	191	20	AG9G for N9BDL
WIN/E	182	90	323	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	163	34	269	31	W9UW
D9RN	354	156	553	43	AF9FA

### STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY August 1999

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
K9JPS	0	590	41	412	1043 - BPL
W9IHW	2	422	36	268	728 - BPL
K9RTB	0	388	63	270	721 - BPL

Continued on page 12

Continued on page 12



## SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Sky Borkenhagen, N9XRU, Secretary  
N6466 Plank Circle • Glenbeulah WI 53023

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

The October meeting was called to order by the club President, Steve, N9TRK, at 7:08 pm local time. There were 7 members present at the meeting.

The SCARC meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month in the Red Cross building at 2032 Erie Avenue in Sheboygan.

The club treasurer Mike, K9SJ, gave the treasurer's report. The checking account balance is \$899.04. Thank you to all those who support the club by paying annual dues.

Steve, N9TRK, reported that the Plank Road Trail Health Classic event was a success. "Thank you!" to the 14 club members who helped make communications run smoothly. SCARC will follow up with Art,

K9XJ, about how we can be of service again next year.

The Red Cross basement room was discussed and the purchase of materials is being planned.

Our annual Membership Steak Fry will be held on Tuesday, October 12 at the Pine Club, N.W. corner of 15th and Geele, Sheboygan, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Jim, WA9SNU, will be cooking again this year! This will replace our regular club meeting for the month. The club will provide potato salad and baked beans etc. Beverages are available for purchase. Please RSVP and Regrets to Sky, N9XRU, before October 5.



## Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 11

Please take note of the changes in our SCARC Saturday morning breakfast schedule, now held at the following venues.

1st Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Jumes in Sheboygan

2nd Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Highway Bakery at Highways J and 42

3rd Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Jumping Jacks - Kohler Sports Core

4th Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Parkside restaurant County P Sheb Falls

5th Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Farm Hill Restaurant, Cty V and OK

Hams, spouses, hangers on and such are welcome. For addresses, phone numbers etc., see the yellow pages.

Steve, N9TRK, concluded the meeting

with a excellent program on stealth antennas.

Congratulations again to Rick, KB9-TMV, on your recent upgrade.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Just a reminder, if you use e-mail, consider signing up on the Sheboygan Hams mailing list. Simply submit your e-mail address to:

<julian@bongo.tele.com>.

All e-mail sent to <shebham@tele.com> will be forwarded to all listed subscribers. Thanks again to N6ARE for providing this mail server for SCARC use!

For those of you who do not have an e-mail address and have correspondence for the club, our address is: SCARC, P.O. Box 1282, Sheboygan, WI 53082-1282.

### Net Schedule

8:00 pm Monday nights, SCARC Fun Net, 147.060, PL 107.2+

Respectfully submitted:  
Sky Borgenhausen, N9XRU

## Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO  
5400 Six Mile Road  
Racine, WI 53402



September found two of our family members in the hospital. Gladys (Bob, W0WLN) Jensen suffered an aneurysm. The resulting surgery kept Gladys in the ICU ward for several days and in the hospital for more than a week. At this writing she is home resting, trying to garner back her strength and energy. Bob said the operation went very well. Best wishes for a speedy recovery. Gladys!

Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, experienced a health problem that led him to the hospital on two separate occasions within days of each other. The resulting tests were inconclusive and a direct cause could not be determined. The good news is that Bill is on the mend and will soon be actively involved with the chapter once again. We wish you a

speedy recovery also, Bill.

Our Annual Meeting and election will take place at Bentley American Grille in the Marriott Hotel, 7100 Washington Avenue in Racine on Sunday, October 17, 1999, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Reminder postcards will be mailed to the membership. We will be electing three directors from a slate of six candidates. The three incumbents, Bob Jensen, W0WLN; Ken Knoff, N9NBC; and Al Marini, W9CKQ, will join Don Buska, N9OO; Ron Fox, K9AKH; and Al Algiers, W9HR on the ballot. The three winners will meet with the current remaining four Directors and elect the officers for 2000, president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer. As part of the Annual Meeting, the chapter will pick up the cost for this gala event.

Our October meeting held at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville was especially meaningful for our President, Spence Clope, W9LDH. He was the winner of a wonderful bottle of Greek wine, donated to the chapter by our restaurant host. And Spence will soon be celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of his birth. Happy B-Day, Spencer.

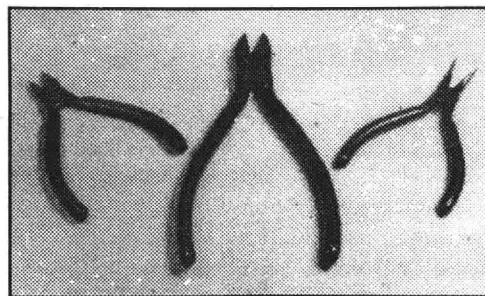
Our Chapter members and the Ham community in Southeastern Wisconsin have been scurrying around looking for nominees for the Olie Fox, K9AKG Award of Excellence and our Annual Ham of the Year selectees. Both awards will be given out in October. The Olie Fox award at our Annual Meeting and the Ham of the Year will be presented at a place to be determined. Our Awards Banquet chairperson is within weeks of delivering her second child and has not been blessed with offers of assistance for this year's banquet. She and I decided that to try and put something together at this late date would be an adventure into frustration, something she and I did not want to experience. So we thought it best to drop the endeavor for this year and plan for an exciting award banquet next March. Any and all suggestions will greatly be appreciated.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

Thanks for reading  
Badger State Smoke  
Signals!

## NEW PRODUCTS

### MFJ-7104 "HELPING HAND" KIT TOOLS



MFJ Enterprises now offers good tools at very reasonable prices for kit assembly and general electronic repair work.

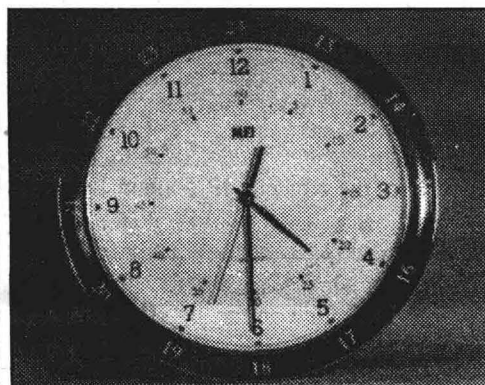
**MFJ-7104, \$6.95.** Four inch tapered head diagonal cutter pliers. Suitable for soft wire below diameter of 1.0mm. Green cushion grips.

**MFJ-7106, \$11.95.** All purpose standard beveled edges, 6 inch wire cutters. Exceptional strength. Red plastic coated cushion grips. Suitable for cutting coax and other thicker wire.

**MFJ-7114, \$6.95.** Four inch needle nose pliers, green plastic coated cushion grips.

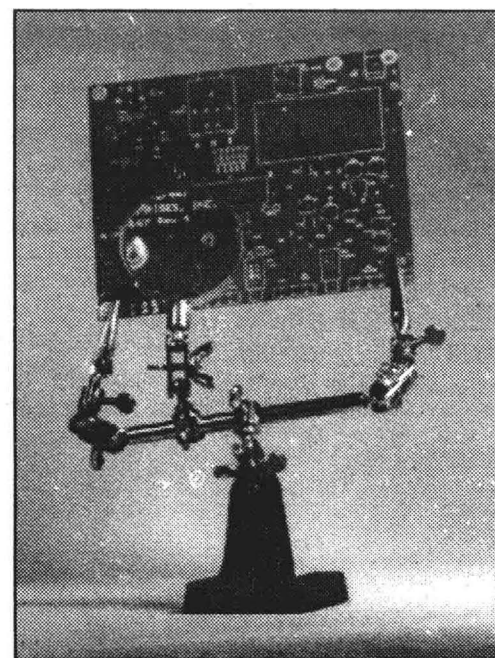
**VEC-7400, \$14.95.** Helping Hands with 2" magnifying glass holds objects at any angle and leaves both hands free. Repair and assemble products. Six ball joints, nickel-plated fittings, heavy-cast iron base, alligator spring clips, locking thumb screws.

### MFJ-126 12-HOUR WALL CLOCK



This beautiful quartz accurate wall clock has a clear, clean and highly visible 12 inch diameter face. It's easily seen from 15-20 feet away, and is the perfect timepiece for home or office.

You get precision quartz accuracy, 12



To order or for your nearest dealer, call toll free (800) 647-1800. FAX: (601) 323-6551.

Email: <mfj@mfjenterprises.com>.

Mail: P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS.

Check out our fantastic Web site at:

<<http://www.mfjenterprises.com>>.

MFJ new product news releases

hour digits on a clean, white face, 24 hour timeline trim, seconds digits and multicolored attractiveness that'll brighten any wall.

The MFJ-126 provides a beautiful face that's easy on the eyes. A thin line of handsome gold trim outlines the face inside and outside. The 24 hour timeline is reversed in a handsome hunter green and red stop points and seconds digits accentuate the handsome black hands and 12 hour digits.

It's easy to set with one simple turn dial on the back and operates for long periods on a single "AA" battery (not included). Made of hard, durable plastic, this clock will give you years of use.

Protect by MFJ's famous *No Matter What*™ one year limited warranty, MFJ will repair or replace (at our option) your MFJ-126 clock no matter what for one complete year.

## Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Continued from page 11

STATION ORIG RCVD SENT DLVD TOTAL

K9GU	0	377	32	266	675	BPL
W9YFY	0	252	288	0	540	BPL
W9CBE	0	90	109	2	201	
AF9FA	0	82	55	2	139	
W9YCV	1	37	54	11	103	
N9CK	5	39	37	2	83	
W9UW	0	44	32	0	76	
AG9G	0	24	41	11	76	
K9LGU	0	54	18	1	73	
KE9VU	0	34	33	1	68	
KA9KLZ	0	2	36	1	39	
WZ7V	0	2	33	0	35	
W9BHL	0	2	33	0	35	
KA9FVX	0	0	34	0	34	
AA9B3	1	1	28	0	30	
K9FHI	0	1	27	1	29	
K9HDF	0	0	29	0	29	
N9JIY	0	1	23	1	25	
AD9X	0	0	24	0	24	
KG9B	0	0	24	0	24	
KA9BHK	0	8	13	2	23	
WB9ICH	0	19	2	0	21	
W9PVD	0	3	1	3	7	
K9UTO	0	1	3	0	4	

### PSHR TOTALS

K9RTB 28	W9YCV 140	KA9KLZ 126
AF9FA 173	W9CBE 130	K9LGU 107
K9FHI 149	AG9G 129	KA9FVX 67

## RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

STEVE HART, KA9OMC, SECRETARY

E616 810TH AVENUE

KNAPP, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings, RCRA sponsors and guests.

RCRA Director NQ9X, Ed Van Sickle, will be having surgery at Madison VA Hospital in mid-October. Cards, letters and calls would be encouraged.

KC4WDX, Joyce Peterson, and K9-KGB, Bill Duncan, were some of our local hams celebrating high school class reunions in Eau Claire this summer.

WCCO, 830 kHz radio in the Twin Cities, announced recently that they had reduced power for some tower painting. KMSP, channel 9 TV, also reduced their signal in August to upgrade their system for digital broadcast.

KB9LUK, James Kinney at Eau Galle, still has an HTX-242 2-meter mobile for sale. Call James at (715) 283-4373.

KB9SGY, David Garnett, is attending vocational training in work skills at Eau Claire this fall. Dave is still looking for a rotor. Call Dave at (715) 874-6570.

WB9PMF, Tim Ross, made contact with Nigeria and has received a QSL to confirm. Tom has also made some parts purchases for the repeater which hopefully will restore the 146.01 MHz receiver. Thanks, Tim.

KB9TAC, Andy Wagner, is in his senior

year at Menomonie High School and will be involved in three weeks of band competition at the beginning of October. Besides band, Andy is picking up astronomy and computer courses at UW-Stout, and a job change to the new Culver's Restaurant in his plans.

KF9CU, Arlene Kraft, is the club bulletin station, and reports over a dozen bulletins received during the recent hurricane that affected the east coast.

N0PDD, Bob Stark at Winona, MN, has been recognized by the National Weather Service and has been assigned call sign CO1. Bob also attended the Winona Fun Fly-in, where he had a chance to see the Bloomington group's helicopters in action.

KG9MK, Tim McCaughey at Eau Claire, has some 386 and 486 CPUs with keyboards and no monitors for sale. Call Tim at (715) 831-1735.

KB9TLV, John McDonald at Cumberland, helped NQ9X, Ed, install his six-meter halo antenna. John has also been busy taking down SK WA9CCB's tower and associated antennas.

N9PPE, Jeff Cole at Bloomer, has for

Continued on page 13



# Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association (WAPR)

Meeting Minutes  
August, 1999

The Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association held its quarterly meeting on August 21, 1999 at the Old Country Buffet in Green Bay. The meeting started late; it was called to order at 12:24 p.m. In attendance were N0GMJ, N9NCQ, N9BQM, N9CFN, KB9QWC, KB9MWR and KB9ALN.

The first order of business was a treasurer's report given by Al, N0GMJ. Al had only recently received all of the treasurer's materials, and was able to discern that we had, as of this date, \$2001.16 in the checking account. There are no other accounts held by WAPR, so this represents our total monetary assets.

As far as can be determined, the only known outlay that needs to be addressed is an invoice from the *Badger State Smoke Signals* for \$340.00 for member subscriptions. This will be paid as soon as the new checks arrive.

Some of the dues checks that were added to the balance were quite old and may need to be replaced, it was noted. Al is working to determine which checks can clear, and which checks may have been canceled by members who thought they had been lost. He will contact those members who may have canceled payment on checks that were not promptly deposited.

Al also noted that his review of the membership rolls reflected a substantial drop in membership. 1996 figures showed 45 members, 1997 showed 13 members, and so far in 1999 we had 13 members. Figures for 1998 were not available.

Al will carefully inspect the membership list and cross-check it with the list of people he has who receive the *Badger State Smoke Signals*. He will also compare the current list to the list of past members and send out "reminder cards" to people who have been past members.

Al also observed that the cost of the *Badger State Smoke Signals* subscriptions is more than double the amount that WAPR charges its members for the magazine. He suggested that we consider raising membership dues to cover this shortfall.

Comment from KB9ALN: With the small membership we currently show, and the fact that we have enough operating funds in the treasury to carry us through the year, it might be unwise to consider this right now. It was agreed that we should discuss this next year rather than now, for the reasons cited.

Question from N9BQM: Can we change our fiscal year to start in August? This would give members who have paid for, but not received the *Badger State Smoke Signals*, 13 months of membership instead of 12. This would be offered as some kind of remedy for those members. Al made a quick check of the number of *Badger State Smoke Signals* subscriptions vs. the number of paid memberships for the time period in question, and determined that this should not be necessary. However, Al will check into this much more thoroughly and report on it later.

Next, Joel, N9BQM, made complimentary comments to KB9ALN concerning the *Wisconsin Packeteer* page that appears in the *Badger State Smoke Signals*. KB9ALN asked for more input on topics for the feature article section of the page. (BSSS editor's note: One of Andy's 1998 columns was reprinted in *CQ VHF* magazine earlier this year, and with some nice compliments from the staff of the magazine about Andy's writings and about BSSS.)

The next order of business concerned offices and the people holding them. There were no persons volunteering to run for

office, so there was no need for an election. As a result, the current slate of officers will remain, and they are:

Joel, N9BQM - Chairperson  
Ron, N9CFN - Vice Chair  
Al, N0GMJ - Treasurer  
Andy, KB9ALN - Secretary  
Guy, KF9XX - Director  
Larry, WD9ESU - Director

In addition to this, the appointed position of Frequency Coordinator is still held by Walt, AA9AW.

The next item up for discussion was meeting sites. Joel noted that the last few meetings have been held in the east-central and northeastern parts of the state. He expressed a desire to have meetings in other parts of the state to better serve members who may not be able to travel very far out of their home area. One suggestion was to have a meeting in the Milwaukee area, as it has been quite some time since we have had a meeting in that part of the state. We will make an attempt to have a meeting in that area, as well as the southwestern and northwestern parts of the state soon.

Next up was a report on the IP Coordination status. This is technically not a WAPR function, but it is fortunate that the IP Coordinator is also a WAPR officer. Ron, N9CFN is the IP coordinator and reports that he has gotten updates from his area coordinators and has also "cleaned up" the state domain list. Formerly, non-amateur addresses had appeared on the list, which is not what the amateur IP domain list is supposed to reflect.

He also noted that there have been some operators who have simply made up addresses and gone on the air. This is not only operating against the grain of the system, but totally unnecessary. Ron is readily reachable by postal, packet, and electronic mail. He also attempts to make a very fast turnaround on the requests for IP addresses. All were puzzled that this situation (the self-selection of IP addresses) exists. There was speculation that some people may not realize that there are "area" IP address coordinators that assist Ron in the assignment of IP addresses and that there might be confusion there. (See the attached information concerning state and area IP coordination.)

Up for discussion next was network expansion. KB9ALN reported that Josh, KG9BO, in Sheboygan, has configured a BBS and also has a UHF Backbone port on it. Currently, he has established a good, solid link with the N9PBY node stack in Port Washington. In order to link with the network to the north, Red, N9GHE, in Manitowoc will re-aim his beam that was pointed at the former Sheboygan site. As soon as Red can line up a tower climber, this will be done.

This brought up a question of IP routing through Sheboygan. Currently, there is no routing set up to go through Josh, and this will be corrected when the beam is re-aimed, if not sooner.

The other network extension will go West from Neenah. Aaron, KB9QWC, picked up his Motorola Mitrek from Al N0GMJ who had performed modifications on it for 9600 bps service. Bob, KA9JAC, in Neenah has aimed another antenna toward Aaron's location in Clintonville, and testing on the link will begin when Aaron installs the radio, which should be very soon. This linkage will allow mail forwarding to Bob, and should link the Fox Valley with points West.

Next we had a short discussion concerning the history of WAPR, its various incarnations, and its future. The discussion was

too detailed to recount here, although interesting and informative.

The last order of business was a technical discussion fostered by Al, N0GMJ's, experiments with the various TNCs he had access to while setting up nodes in the western part of the state. He has observed that the MFJ and Kantronics 9600 bps will effectively operate with almost any decodable signal level, weak or strong. The Paccomm Sprint and Spirit II models seem to suffer from an inability to decode very strong signals. A phone call to Paccomm Tech Support revealed that this is due to the filtering characteristics of the Paccomm modem. They are biased toward weak signals. It seems that when stronger signals have total capture of an FM receiver, the low-frequency components of the audio appear at an increased level in the audio recovered by the receiver's discriminator.

In the Paccomm TNCs, this appears to disrupt the higher frequency audio signals to such a degree that the TNC has difficulty decoding the packet audio.

There appear to be two primary methods ways to help minimize this effect.

One way is to have Paccomm burn a

custom ROM for the TNC. The modem's frequency response characteristics are burned in ROM on the TNC, unlike the modem offered for sale for the Tiny-2 TNC. On that modem, the filter is jumper-configured.

Another way is to limit the transmission of low-frequency components in the transmitter that the TNC is trying to hear. One can add a high-pass filter between the TNC and the radio as one solution. Another is to choose a different place to inject the transmitted audio, relying on the circuit's natural high-pass characteristics. Al has chosen this method so that the receiving TNC has better decode performance under strong-signal conditions. It will also negate a need to construct low-pass filters for existing installations.

KB9ALN suggested we experiment with pre-emphasis on the transmitting units and de-emphasis on the receiving units, and Al agreed, though there was no firm plans for such experimentation.

After additional discussion concerning this matter, we adjourned.

Submitted by  
Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

## Red Cedar Repeater Association

Continued from page 12

sale a Kenwood TS-830S HF transceiver. Call Jeff at (715) 568-1011.

Hope to see you at next month's social hour, scheduled for October 26 at 1414 9th Street, the Peppermill Restaurant in the L-Mart shopping center. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend.

Thanks to WB9WKO and KA9WZP.

Ron and Mary Purvis, for saving aluminum cans. The yield was \$5.88.

The RCRA continues to need additional directors. N9RSU, LeRoy Dick, has submitted his name to the group. If you are at least age 21 and are willing to keep an ARRL membership to cover insurance requirements, contact the RCRA.

WA9PAM, Ron Anderson, has some 7/8" 50Ω Heliax. Contact Ron at (715) 723-1729.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC  
RCRA Secretary/Treasurer  
Steve Hart, KA9OMC

## Professional media award deadline looms

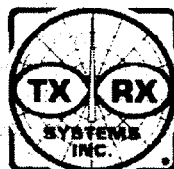
Friday, October 1, is the deadline for entries in ARRL's professional media award. Previously announced as the Golden Antenna Award, the official name was changed to honor the late Bill Leonard, W2SKE, a former President of CBS News. This award will go to a professional journalist—or group—for outstanding coverage of Amateur Radio in TV, radio, print or multimedia. The winner will receive an engraved plaque and \$500.

In Amateur Radio circles, Bill Leonard is remembered for his 1958 contribution to *Sports Illustrated*, "The Battle of the Hams," which describes the "sport of DXing." In November of 1996, Leonard was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame. Leonard became a Silent Key in 1994.

"We feel that Bill's impressive news career and dedication to Amateur Radio makes him the perfect namesake for this award program," said Dave Bell, W6AQ, Chairman of ARRL's Public Relations Committee. Members of the PR Committee will judge the entries and select this year's winner.

For more information about the Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award, including rules for entry and nomination forms, contact ARRL Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, 860-594-0328; <jhagy@arrrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter



## VARI-NOTCH® DUPLEXERS FOR 2 METERS

The TX RX Systems Inc. patented Vari-Notch filter circuit, a pseudo-bandpass design, provides low loss, high TX to RX, and between-channel isolation, excellent for amateur band applications. TX RX Systems Inc. has been manufacturing multicoupling systems since 1976. Other models available for 220 and 440 MHz, UHF ATV and 1.2 GHz.

MODEL 28-37-02A

144-174 MHz  
92 dB ISOLATION AT 0.6 MHz SEPARATION  
400 WATT POWER RATING

TX RX SYSTEMS INC.

Dave Barquist, K9PAK, Factory Representative  
414-367-2929 or E-Mail [brx@electpdcts.com](mailto:brx@electpdcts.com)



19" RACK MOUNT





# THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association  
Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ, Treasurer  
Ogema, WI 54459

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 453 Cottage Grove Avenue • Green Bay, WI 54304 • e-mail: kb9aln@juno.com

## WAPR News - October, 1999

Hello again to all in the month of Halloween. Fall's crisp air is advancing, and the outdoor projects will soon be coming to an end. Hope you are set for the winter.

As was mentioned here last month, the WAPR meeting took place in Green Bay. You will find the meeting minutes here on this page.

There are two developments that I talked about last month and that were also mentioned at the WAPR meeting. That would be the proposed node system in Waupaca, and the recent addition of a BBS in Sheboygan. There is some news on both of these developments that is newer than what was written in the meeting minutes.

First, Waupaca. Aaron, KB9QWC has been trying to get a node stack up and running in Waupaca county for some time now, and we reported that he now has his radio and has made some trials from his home in Clintonville.

Unfortunately, the setup that Aaron has does not provide all that is necessary to connect to Rudolph, or to the East. However, some recent developments concerning ARES in Waupaca county may present an opportunity to obtain use of a very good site for a nodestack. Aaron has been able to do some testing at this site, and reports that he has monitored not only the Rudolph node with no problem, but also nodes to the west. As of this writing, I do not have all of the details as to how the stack will be configured, call-sign, and frequency. As I hear more, I'll let you know about these and other details.

The other story that needs updating is the linkage to Sheboygan. Red, N9GHE has aimed the beam toward Josh, KG9BQ who has a BBS and LAN node setup in Sheboygan. So far, the link seems to be solid, and after Josh gets done "tweaking" all of the operating parameters, it should be all set for regular use. One of the tweaking points is TCP/IP routing. As of now, regular AX.25 and Net/Rom node connects can be made. But a lack of IP routing means that one can't connect to the BBS using telnet. I'll report here when all the details have been ironed out.

In other news, I have received word of a new TNC coming from Europe. Jim Romelfanger was amongst those who sent me info on the new unit, and it does indeed look interesting.

This unit is designed to make life easier for those who want to try TCP/IP, but don't want to invest time configuring one of the traditional TCP/IP NOS programs that were designed for ham radio. It uses a novel approach to achieve this, it behaves just like your conventional modem does. This allows your existing web browser, telnet, E-Mail and ftp programs to operate over packet radio. They think they're talking to a telephone modem, but they are really talking to a TNC. It makes TCP/IP over ham radio very nearly identical to the internet surfing via a phone line. Of course, it is slower than what you will see on the internet, of course.

It sounds fairly easy to set up, with the TNC commands sent as a "modem initialization string". This means that a long list of commands that you normally would have to set up is now gone. Just a few to set TNC parameters, and you are on the road.

The TNC is also capable of operating in the KISS mode, and the terminal mode. So it is not exclusive to TCP/IP - it can operate conventionally in the event that you need it to. This new TNC will be the subject of a report to appear on this page in the December issue, look for it then.

That is all we have time and space for this month, until next time, 73 from Andy.

## Linux and Packet Radio - Part 2

By Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Last month, in the spirit of doing something completely different, we began a 3-part series about using Linux in ham radio, specifically packet radio. This month we continue our series with a closer look at Linux to give you a feel for it, and tell you about the various methods that

application programs use to "talk packet".

How does it look and work?

You may remember from last month that Linux is a multi-user, multi-tasking system. The term "multi-user" is pretty self explanatory. Several people can be using a given computer at the same time. Multi-tasking means that the computer can do several things at apparently the same time.

A word about Users.

All users have a section of the hard drive reserved for them. This is called their "home" directory, and these are unique to each machine's user. Each user also has access to his or her own home directory only.

Certain users have more privileges than others. A regular user has access to some of the functions and services available on the computer. He or she cannot, for example, shut the machine down, or make vital changes to the system files. These tasks are only permitted to be done by a specially privileged user called a "superuser". This is the person responsible for configuring and maintaining the system.

The User Interface (what does the screen look like?)

Linux can be configured to operate in one of two basic user interfaces, the shell and a Graphical User Environment, or GUI.

The shell resembles the familiar DOS command-line prompt, with some special differences. First of all, you are required to log in with a user name and a password. Linux is a multi-user system, and the machine needs to know who you are.

Once a user is logged in and is placed in their proper home directory, not too much exciting appears on the screen when you are using the shell interface. All you will see is a command prompt with the user's name, the @ symbol, the computer's name, and the directory name. On my Linux computer, my prompt looks like this:

```
[kb9aln@kb9aln-1 kb9aln] $
```

Any commands that I type appear after the \$. The shell is the most common user interface for people who log on to a computer remotely.

The interesting thing about the shell is that you can log in more than once. This holds true whether you are at the computer's console, or if you are remotely accessing the computer through a network. When you are at the keyboard, holding the ALT key while pressing the F2 key will transfer you to another log-in prompt. ALT and F3 is still another, and so on. Most Linux systems are set up for six of these "virtual consoles", and you can use all of them, if you like.

The Graphical User Interface appears to be something like Microsoft Windows...only different. It is a point-and-click user environment that you manipulate with a mouse. Of course, a log-in box is provided for you to enter your username and password. The GUI interface is most often used by someone at the local console. It is worth mentioning here that a local user can be using either the shell or GUI user interface, while remote users can use the shell or GUI interfaces. They are completely independent of one another.

Packet Radio Usage

There are a couple of different ways to use packet radio with Linux. One method is "kernel" based, the other is "application based".

Of course, we use AX.25 in packet radio, so we need to have Linux talk that language. As was said last month, Linux has networking built right into the operating system. This is TCP/IP networking, just as is used on the Internet and amongst some ham packet radio stations. However, we still need AX.25 to talk to other amateur packet stations.

In kernel based AX.25, the support for AX.25 is built into the operating system in a manner similar to the way that TCP/IP is built into the system. You can connect to other packet stations with AX.25 built into the system, but you can't get too fancy. Fancier functions, like a mailbox, are left to other programs running on the system (remember, Linux can do several things at the same time). You can also find Linux packet radio programs that give you a nice split

## WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME BBS: \_\_\_\_\_ FREQ: \_\_\_\_\_ (Listing your home BBS is important)

Your HOME BBS should be a full service BBS, not your TNC's mailbox.

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_ NIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ 24HRS

I OPERATE A: \_\_\_\_\_ DIGIPEATER WITH ALIAS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKETINTEREST/EXPERTISE IS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ YES I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues goes to pay this subscription, cost \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ NO I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke Signals as a part of my WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00

COMPLETE and return this form with your check or money order - \$15.00 membership only or \$20.00 membership and Badger State Smoke Signals, made payable to W.A.P.R. to:

Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ, Treasurer  
W5000 SR 86  
PO Box 558  
Ogema, WI 54459

## The Test Point



*Amateur Radio Examination Locations  
and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area*

October 02, 1999	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
October 02, 1999	Racine, WI
October 02, 1999	St. Paul, MN
October 09, 1999	Blaine, MN
October 09, 1999	Eau Claire, WI
October 09, 1999	Madison, WI
October 14, 1999	Apple Valley, MN
October 16, 1999	Cottage Grove, MN
October 16, 1999	Loves Park, IL
October 16, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
October 16, 1999	Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
October 19, 1999	Eden Prairie, MN
October 23, 1999	Bloomington, MN
October 30, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 30, 1999	Tomahawk, WI
November 06, 1999	Menomonie, WI
November 06, 1999	Onalaska, WI
November 06, 1999	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
November 06, 1999	Racine, WI
November 06, 1999	St. Paul, MN
November 11, 1999	Apple Valley, MN
November 13, 1999	Blaine, MN
November 13, 1999	Madison, WI
November 16, 1999	Eden Prairie, MN
November 16, 1999	Sheboygan, WI
November 20, 1999	Cottage Grove, MN
November 20, 1999	Loves Park, IL
November 20, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
November 27, 1999	Bloomington, MN
November 27, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
December 04, 1999	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
December 04, 1999	Racine, WI
December 04, 1999	St. Paul, MN
December 09, 1999	Apple Valley, MN
December 11, 1999	Blaine, MN
December 11, 1999	Madison, WI
December 18, 1999	Cottage Grove, MN
December 18, 1999	Loves Park, IL
December 18, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
December 18, 1999	Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
December 21, 1999	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Racine, WI
(except January, July & August)	
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except December)	
Monthly, Last Sat.	Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)	
Quarterly	Eau Claire, WI
(Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.)	

plus annual summer hamfest.)

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

### GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND



## Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)  
K90DK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary  
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959



The September 7, 1999 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by club president Steve Schulze, N9UDO. Minutes and treasurer's report were accepted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: CONGRATULATIONS TO** Maurey Gurgil KA9TBU who upgraded to Amateur Extra in August.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Jim Paul, N9LKY, and Thomas Harrison, N9PQJ reported on last month's balloon launch. Bill Klinkner, N9KXX reported on both the American Cancer Run for Life and the swapfest. The club made money and a good time was had by all. Don Evenson became a club member once again. The club members decided to do it again next year (August 12, 2000). It was suggested and approved to acknowledge the work done by Karen and Carol at the food stand for the past two years. Their work was much appreciated and will be formally recognized.

**NEW BUSINESS: ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS.** did not go well. Steve Schulze expressed his willingness to continue as club president and Bill Klinkner agreed to another term as treasurer. Both Bill Hommel and Raymond Matlosz declined to run again for their respective offices, although both agreed to run for VP if no one else volunteered. Pete Sweeney nominated Steve Schulze for president, seconded by Tom Harrison. Tom Harrison nominated Raymond Matlosz for Vice President seconded by Bill Hommel. Tom Harrison nominated Bill Klinkner for treasurer, seconded by Peter Sweeney. NO ONE volunteered to run for club secretary. Some names were mentioned. There was a discussion as to what to do if no one was elected secretary. Steve Schulze thought they were required by state law to have a full set of officers. It was decided to postpone the election until next meeting.

Bill Klinker talked about APRS and requested technical assistance to set up it up in La Rue. Pete Sweeney

talked about ARES/RACES as the club works towards certification. The club then discussed the offer by Bill Hommel to sell the club his Kenwood TS440 SAT rig. The decision was to take a vote on whether the club should purchase it or not at the next meeting.

Buck night winner was Dave Spearing, KB9CSW who graciously donated his big winnings (two bucks or so) to the Field Day Refreshment Fund.

**COOKOUT** at Steve's Place Saturday September 18 at 6 pm. Call or e-mail Steve (N9UDO@ARRL.NET) to say if you will be attending.

Bob Lindmeier, weather central, is willing to bring his truck full of electronic equipment and give a presentation to the club. Steve will work on arranging that for the November meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday October 5, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. room 18, Baraboo Civic Center. Election of officers. Need to have someone assume the duties of club secretary the existence of the club as we know it is at stake. thank you

The following members were present:

Bill Klinkner N9KXX Sauk City  
Raymond Matlosz N9MLZ Reedsburg  
Steve Schulze N9UDO Baraboo  
James Brann KB9NXG North Freedom  
Jim Paul N9LKY Baraboo  
Bill Hommel KA9QFJ Baraboo  
David Spearing KB9CSW Portage  
Peter Sweeney WD9JIB Reedsburg  
Thomas Harrison N9PQJ Reedsburg

### WORDS OF WISDOM:

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

A clean desk is a sign of a cluttered desk drawer.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

There's no future in time travel.

For Sale: Parachute. Only used once, never opened, small stain.

Boycott shampoo! Demand the REAL poo!

If you choke a smurf, what color does it turn?

Who is General Failure and why is he reading my hard disk?

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Energizer Bunny arrested, charged with battery.

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

**CORRECTLY.** Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32c SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.45 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, a person can find out registered VE sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC, it is a master database. (Thanks to KB9EQI for information.)

Due to space limitations, we regret that we are unable to carry the complete listing of examsite locations, time and instructions every month. For more information about the above listed examination dates, please see last month's BSSS. We plan to carry the complete information at least every other month. The following listing was received since last month's BSSS went to press.

### MENOMONIE, WI

The Menomonie area hams will conduct VEC Exams for all classes of licenses on Saturday, November 6, 1999. The location will be the U.W.-Stout Communications Center, 820 S. Broadway, Menomonie Wisconsin. Walk-ins only. Arrive between 9:00 and 11:00 AM. For information, contact Jim Ley, NX9F, 715-232-1397 (W) or 715-235-3998 (H).

**Darrow's**  
COUNTRY MARKET

1212 8th STREET  
BARABOO, WISCONSIN



**Buy it! • Sell it! • Trade it! • Fix it!**

# SWAPFESTS



**28th ANNUAL MIDWINTER  
SWAPFEST**  
WAUKESHA EXPOSITION  
CENTER  
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN  
**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 8, 2000**

1999 WINNERS  
Philip A. Bugnick, KB9KEE  
Milwaukee  
Christopher D. Molek, KB9GTR  
Richland Center

Both sponsored by:  
**THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.**  
P. O. BOX 1072 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

**HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!  
MADISON SWAPFEST**  
**April 9, 2000**

**Mandt Community Center**  
400 Mandt Parkway • Stoughton, WI  
Doors open at 8 a.m.

Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY  
P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890  
Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

**SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**SWAPFEST 00**

**July 8, 2000**

(Held every July)

**American Legion Park**

**Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI**

(414) 762-3235

P. O. Box 102

Extension: Ask for Verne

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

## SEWFARS SWAPFEST

HAM RADIOS • COMPUTERS • ELECTRONICS  
AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2000**

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Setup Starts at 6:00 A.M.

For more information, call (414) 835-7035

## LAKESHORE HAMFEST AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST

**Manitowoc County Expo**

Intersection of Hwys 42-151 and I-43 on City Highway R

**Saturday, May 13, 2000**

For more information, call:

Red, N9GHE • (920) 84-3733

Dick, N9QFY • (920) 682-9264

ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS

**YOUR SPRING FAVORITE!**

**Jefferson County Fairgrounds**

tricityarc@globaldialog.com

TCARC • 711 East Street

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

920-563-6502

Evenings

**This space is available.**

email: smokesigs@baraboo.com

Write: Jim Romelfanger, 412½ Ash Street  
Baraboo WI 53913-2501

**Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club**  
**W9EAU HAMFEST**  
**Saturday, June 10, 2000**

For Information Contact:

Jim Staatz KG9MV at 715-838-9108

P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

kg9mv@ecol.net http://www.ecarc.org

**Racine Amateur Radio and Computer Auction**

**Friday, October 1, 1999 • 7 p.m. to ??**  
Inspection starts at 5 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall (just east of I-94)

13249 Washington Ave. (Hwy. 20) • Racine, WI

\$2.00 admission • \$1 registration per lot • Low auction fee  
E-mail: w9udu@wi.net Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC

Web: http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/auction/HTML

**Ozaukee Radio Club**  
**22ND ANNUAL RADIO AND  
COMPUTER SWAPFEST**  
**Saturday, May 6, 2000**

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center

Intersection of Highway 60 and County I

Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,

5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222

Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club

1702 Holly Lane, Grafton, WI 53024

## Circus City Swapfest

Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

**Saturday August 12, 2000 • 7 am - Noon**  
**Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI**

Vendors • Concessions  
Camping • Free Parking  
Tail Gate Area

\$4 - Advanced  
\$5 - At Gate  
8 Foot Tables - \$5

Steve Schulze, N9UDO  
(608) 356-2313/356-4777  
http://members.baraboo.com/ssschulze/hamfest.htm

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX  
(608) 643-6908/643-6453

**Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.**

## AUCTION

**February 22, 2000 • 7:00 p.m.**

American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street  
Eau Claire, WI

CONTACT:

Steve Hart, KA9OMC  
E616 810th Ave.

715-665-2374  
Knapp, WI 54749

# PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

**AMATEUR  
ELECTRONIC  
SUPPLY®**

5710 W. Good Hope Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53223  
Toll Free 1-800-558-0411  
414-358-0333

**The World's largest Ham Dealer  
is located in Wisconsin**

and throughout the world at  
**www.aesham.com**

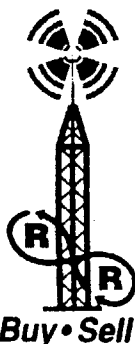
- Complete Inventories
- Quality Used Gear
- Top Trades
- Service Department
- Competitive Pricing
- Same Day Shipping

**Browse our inventory  
without leaving your chair**

Download the Newest AES Catalog

Place an Order on-line at our

**SECURE SITE**



**Radio  
Recyclers**

USED HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT

**Neil Lawton WK9Q**

www.execpc.com/~radiorec radiorec@execpc.com

**414-760-3000**

Radio Estate Liquidators

over 40,000 tubes and other antique radio parts

5702 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53223

(Located next door to AES)

Buy • Sell

(715) 644-2112

FAX: (715) 644-2621

**RICH'S GENERAL STORE AND SURPLUS**

Route 2 • Stanley WI 54768

**"YOUR DISCOUNT HAM SOURCE"**

Alinco mobile HF, VHF/UHF, and HTs

Ask if any Alinco factory closeouts are currently available!

AMATEUR RADIO BOOKS, CASSETTES, AND VIDEO TAPES • GARMIN GPS

Jo, N9MEI

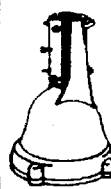
(800) 646-RICH

Rich, N9MEH

**Craig Henderson**  
N8DJB

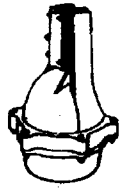
Phone (419) 352-4465

Hours: 10 - 5



**Rotor Doctor**

Rotor Parts and Repair



7368 S.R. 105

Pemberville, OH 43450

## BATTERIES

BATTERIES FOR ALL YOUR POWER REQUIREMENTS

NICKEL CADMIUM  
SEALED LEAD ACID  
GEL CELLS  
ALKALINE  
LITHIUM



**E. H. YOST & COMPANY**

2211-D PARVIEW RD.

MIDDLETON, WI 53562

TELEPHONE (608) 831-3443

FAX (608) 831-1082

ehyost@mrnickd-ehyostco.com

## TOWER ELECTRONICS

THE HAMS DIME STORE & WHOLESALE TO THE WORLD



ORDERS 1-800-662-3422  
TECH INFO 920-435-3359  
FAX LINE 920-435-2980



SCOTT KB9AMM & JILL KB9PZF E-MAIL KB9AMM@JUNO.COM  
P.O. BOX 12631 GREEN BAY, WI 54307-2631  
PRODUCTS FOR HAMS FROM HAMS SINCE 1978



**ARRL**  
Publications **HOTLINE**

Call toll free! 888-277-5289

e-mail: pubsales@arrl.org

Check us out on the Web:

**http://www.arrl.org/**

• Complete Publications Catalog

• Membership application and services

## VCR SERVICE

**North Freedom Electronics**

Same day service by appointment

VCR Cleaning: \$19.95

Computers • Musical Instruments

Stereos • Auto Sound • CDs • CBs

Sorry, no TVs or stacked stereo systems

HOURS MAY VARY - CALL AHEAD

John Schmelzer  
201 E. Walnut, Box 18

(608) 522-4366

North Freedom WI 53951